

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
WINCHESTER

RAT FREE BIRD FEEDING

GUIDELINES TO AVOID ENCOURAGING RODENTS

Top tips for prevention

1. Keep foodstuffs in secure containers.
2. Keep your home and garden tidy to minimise hiding places.
3. Keep your rubbish stored securely in bins.
4. Clean up bird food debris and keep pet/ bird food stored in secure containers.
5. If you compost and have an issue with rats consider alternative methods of storing your compost.



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Winchester
City Council

Everything in moderation

Birds can only eat so much food in a day so it's better to feed them little and often. If food hasn't been eaten don't top it up. If there are leftovers, then the birds won't be the ones eating it!

Keep it clean

Rats will happily eat wet and/or mouldy leftovers. It is important to keep your feeders clean and never allow old food to accumulate, particularly as rats can carry diseases.

Keep it moving

Rats are extremely wary of unfamiliar objects and like to feed at familiar places. Avoid putting food in the same place every day - this will confuse the rats and the birds won't be outsmarted.

Night Shift

Rats are nocturnal and tend to feed almost exclusively during the night so where possible, bird feed should only be put out during the day.

The only way is up

Food scattered on the ground may attract rats. Although rats are competent climbers, a hanging feeder is harder for them to reach. Attaching catch trays under the feeders can also help to stop food falling to the ground.



Under cover

Rats do not like being exposed out in the open. Where possible, place bird feeders away from the edges of your home and garden in places where rats are less likely to venture.

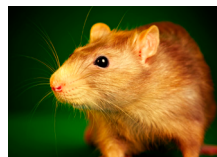
Baffle the rats

It is easy for rats to climb up onto bird tables in order to access the feed. This can be made harder by fitting a baffle or inverted cone to the upright post.



If you see rats...

Rats need daily access to water. The best way to deter rats is to deny them access to food, water and shelter. Because rats are nocturnal seeing them during the day usually means they are hunting for food, there is a large infestation or the nest has been disturbed. If you've seen rats, it may indicate a more serious infestation.



If you spot the signs of activity such as droppings or burrows into the ground then prevention may be too late...

It is always advisable to act quickly to get rid of any rats and prevent a larger infestation developing.

If you are ever in doubt, always contact a professional pest control company

