

Town of Gawler Animal and Pest Control



Bee removal

If you have a bee or wasp hive that needs removal on your property then you must seek the advice of a bee removalist. If the bee or wasp hive is on council property contact Council on 8522 9211.

European wasps

European wasps, unlike bees, can sting more than once. Each time they sting, the wasps inject venom which causes a painful reaction. Some people are allergic to the stings, which can occasionally be fatal.

How to Identify a European Wasp:

- Is it about the same size and shape as a honey bee?
- Does it have jet black antennae (feelers)?
- Does it have bright yellow legs?
- Does it carry its legs up when flying?
- Does it hide its nest in holes in the ground, in cavity walls, roof spaces or nests inside tree trunks?

For eradication of a wasp nest contact our Parks & Garden Supervisor on 0417 861 472 or Council on 8522 9211.

Fruit fly

Fruit flies are the world's worst fruit pest. They appear on nearly every continent and millions of dollars are spent annually on their control and eradication. South Australia is one of the places where Fruit flies do not inhabit. If any maggots are found in fruit contact the Eradication Unit on 8269 4500 (24 hour service).

Pest plants

All pest plant enquires please direct to the:

Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board
205 Greenhill Road, Eastwood SA 5063

Phone: (08) 8273 9100 Email: mreception@adelaide.nrm.sa.gov.au www.amlrnm.sa.gov.au

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Possum and feral cat traps

Traps are available through Council Hire for a small fee. Enquiries to General Inspector on 8522 9211.

Please note: a stray cat can be trapped when found wandering on private property. If an occupier of a property traps an identifiable cat, it must be released unless it is more than one kilometre from a genuine place of residence. A cat should be identified by way of a collar with owner details or by way of a microchip.

Rat control

How to remove rats from your property

Trapping and poisoning will kill rats on your premises, but this is only a temporary measure as rats will return if favourable conditions for existence persist. For complete extermination and protection against reinfestation, rats must be deprived of food and shelter.

Eating habits

Rats eat practically all food. They also eat excreta, thus becoming a carrier of dysentery, diarrhoea and gastro-enteritis. Rats forage mostly at night, but if seen during daylight hours, the rat is very hungry possibly because of over population or because food is readily available.

Breeding habits

The average number of rats per litter is 10 and under varying conditions, 3 to 12 litters may be produced by one female in a year. The young develop rapidly and at three or four months old commence to breed. Rats live for about four years, with a reproductive potential so great that almost 250,000 rats can be produced from one pair and their offspring in three years.

Detecting rats

- The presence of rats may be detected by “droppings”, “rat runs”, “eaten foods” or damage to food containers.
- Droppings are black, thin and about 10mm in length.
- Rat runs are formed because rodents prefer to run alongside a wall or fence and over time, a distinct “path” is worn in the dust or grass. By following this rat run, the rat may be traced to its shelter.
- Eaten food is usually placed in a protected area against the fence lines and could include eaten snail shells, almonds and fruit seeds.
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How to deny rats shelter

- Clear house and land of all rubbish and timber, or stack it at least 300mm above the ground.
- Keep all grass cut short around your property.
- Quickly repair any damage to wall linings to overcome entry of vermin.

How to deny rats food

- Place garbage and food scraps in ratproof bins with close fitting lids. If compost bins are used, keep the base of the bin clear of any vegetation and don't throw meat or dog faeces into the compost bin.
- Avoid open compost heaps.
- Keep fowl yards clear of all waste products.
- Keep poultry and animal food and pet food dishes in a manner that ensures no access by rats, such as in metal bins with tight fitting lids.
- Remove ripened and/or fallen fruit and nuts from trees and ground regularly.

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How do I get rid of rats from my property

The first step is to communicate with your neighbours to identify the extent of the infestation. Encourage them to also lay baits and remove sources of harbourage and food from their properties. Treating at the same time will be more effective in eradicating vermin.

The next step is to identify where the rats are running and select suitable sites for the placement of bait or traps. To encourage rats to eat from baits/traps access to other food sources should be removed before commencing treatment.

Baits

Generally the use of baits is the simplest and most effective way to get rid of rat infestations. Rat bait is available from council office and also from most hardware stores. Bait should be placed in locations away from open spaces but where the rats visit. Every care should be taken when placing bait to ensure that small children and pets cannot gain access to the bait. Once the rat has taken the bait it will begin to take effect. However, it may take up to a week for the rat to die.

If you have any further queries please contact council's Environmental Health Department on 8522 9211.

Snakes

Immediate advice on snake sightings

1. Do not panic - stand still and act like a tall rock, termite mound or tree etc
2. Move extremely slowly and if possible, keep a close eye on the snake (at least (five) metres), phone for assistance & or advice. Again-if possible watch the reptile as to where it goes. Keep calm, snakes can move with lightning speed - whilst - trying to protect themselves if needed. Don't interfere.
3. Remove any children or pets from the danger zone. - "slowly & calmly"
4. If possible - seal or block off the area where the offending reptile is.
5. Do not try and kill the animal- It may be a harmless lizard or snake.
6. Australia has the top 10 (ten) most VENOMOUS land snakes in the world - From being bitten by a common or eastern brown snake, death can result within minutes.
7. Upon a said snakebite - one should immediately apply first aid, then seek medical advice - "urgently".

First Aid

1. Do not wash the bite. Apply a firm broad bandage over the bite site. Then continue the bandage up the limb as high as possible, then down again.
2. Immobilise the limb-use a splint eg: a splint, stick cardboard, rolled up newspaper, a St. John' sling or tie the legs together.
3. Keep the victim at rest. Bring transport to the victim. Transport the victim to hospital. Remain calm. Reassure the victim-constantly.
4. If alone: by tearing up clothing, anyone may apply First-Aid for snakebite, if you have a mobile phone - call for help & sit or lay still, don't move around. If no help available - apply first aid.

Snakes catchers

A list of Snake catchers can be found in the Yellow Pages.