

## Facilities Management from A to Z

Based on The FM Lexicon by Martin Pickard  
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# P

## est Control

A whole range of pests can and do regularly invade buildings including rodents, insects and birds. This occurs when the conditions in the buildings are compatible with their lifestyles. A pest infestation may be a mere nuisance but can be more problematic when the pest concerned can bite, carry disease, cause material damage or contaminate goods.

The most common and obvious sign of a pest infestation is when they can be seen. However some pests can also be detected by taste, smell or hearing long before they are sighted. The best long term approach to the problem is to prevent the infestation in the first place. If pests are detected they should be controlled and measures put in place to reduce the risk of recurrence. This may include installing barriers to prevent entry and removing or reducing the environment where they can live and breed.

If control methods are necessary then chemical or non-chemical treatments may be applied by a trained pest control/prevention contractor. A risk assessment should be carried out to determine the extent of the risk and to ensure the successful implementation of any changes that are considered necessary. This applies to the risks associated with having pests on or within the building.

The formal assessment should be carried out by a qualified and competent person as pest control and prevention treatments often involve the use of materials and methods that could be hazardous if used incorrectly. It is equally important that a competent contractor is employed to carry out the implementation work.

Pest prevention audits should be carried out regularly to ensure that the pest prevention methods on the site are being applied effectively and to demonstrate 'due diligence'. This is normally done by the pest prevention contractor according to set criteria as part of the service contract.

*The British Pest Control Association has a useful A-Z of pests in the public section of their website along with a search system to help find a competent contractor in your locality [www.bpca.org.uk](http://www.bpca.org.uk)*

*The Environmental Health departments of UK Local Authorities also offer advice and in some circumstances support on pest control issues.*