

# Rodents controlled quickly at an industrial facility

Cleankill operates in the South East and was recently called out to a facility on an industrial estate that had a suspected rodent problem. **Mike Williamson**, sales manager at Cleankill, details the work that took place

With the suspected rodent problem located in buildings near to a train line, Mike says that Cleankill carried out a site survey and soon discovered that there were numerous sightings and signs of rodents.

He says: "The site was large, and because it bordered a railway there was plenty of space along the banks for rodents to seek harbourage. I walked the site with the site manager and as I carried out the survey, I made notes about where and when activity had been reported along with suspected hot spots that rodents had been seen or heard.

"There was a disused tower that offered harbourage, so I immediately marked it as a hot spot. We asked questions about the roller shutter doors to establish how often they were open and whether they were open at night to better understand how rodents could be accessing the facility."

There was no history of rodent activity at the site which came as a surprise because of the close proximity to the railway.

*There was a disused tower that offered harbourage*

"Staff reported seeing rodents and hearing noises in the walls," he says. "It was clear there was a significant infestation and that using rodenticides would be required."

The subsequent report and recommendation put forward was to use internal and external bait stations to counter both rats and mice.

Mike took up Killgerm's recommendation of using Storm Ultra Secure, a new single-feed 25ppm rodenticide from BASF with a high level of palatability for rats and mice.

Service technician Sam Boylett, who covers the South East for Cleankill, was asked to attend the site.

*Within just ten days the infestation had been controlled*

Having reviewed the product and the site, Sam chose to use pulse baiting.

Sam says: "I had not used pulse baiting or the product before, but the label was clear, and I was able to secure the bait in stations both in and around the facility.

"I placed the bait and after seven days I returned to assess the take. We found rat and mouse activity.

"Mice had kibbled the bait and rats had clearly taken bait. I could also see tail marks and there was a dead mouse in one of the bait boxes."


Sam says he would normally have put bait boxes in place ahead of any treatment to avoid a neophobic response from rats.

"Because we knew there was an infestation we started straight away and didn't have the time to leave boxes down to avoid neophobia," he says.

"However, the take was high and after 10 days there were no dead bodies to recover and only minimal mouse bait take."

Subsequent follow ups have been carried out with no signs of rats or mice on, or around the premises.

Sam adds: "I normally use a difenacoum multi-feed bait and traps. If I had used a multi-feed I would have still been seeing bait take on the second and third visit, and I would have had to make more visits to replenish the bait.

"The single feed reduced the visits and surprised me with how fast it worked. Within just ten days the infestation had been controlled and there have been no reported sightings of rodents since." 



Top: The site, which bordered a railway, offered a lot of space and opportunity for rodents to seek harbourage. Above: Rat and mouse activity was discovered seven days after the Storm Ultra Secure pulse baiting was placed on the site