



# Pests and vermin

Pests and vermin can cause serious damage to a property and can result in an unhealthy home. This can be a serious problem and can increase the risk of illness. Tenants should try to prevent or remove pests themselves, using reasonable methods.

## What are pests and vermin?

Pests and vermin are insects and animals such as ants, spiders, cockroaches, millipedes, silverfish, rats and mice. Generally, pests and vermin are only attracted to areas where there is access to food or a place to nest.

## How do I prevent pests and vermin in my home?

- A home that is regularly cleaned, kept tidy and well-aired greatly minimises the risk of a pest or vermin infestation. Pests and vermin move into homes in search of food, so properly disposing of food leftovers and rubbish removes the food source and make a home less attractive to pests. Keep any food in your pantry well sealed or in sealed containers.
- Empty your inside rubbish bin regularly and where possible ensure you have your wheelie bin placed outside in a well-ventilated area.
- Ensure your yard and underneath your home is free of rubbish and debris. Rubbish left in a tied garbage bag for any length of time will still attract pests and vermin.
- Ensure your home does not have excessive piles of items such as clothes, towels or sheets, as pest mice and rats may build nests in there.

## How do I get rid of pest and vermin?

“Tenants should try to prevent or remove pests themselves, using reasonable methods”. (Consumer Building & Occupational Services) Pest control measures can be purchased at most supermarkets and hardware stores.

If the tenant is unsuccessful they should notify us about the problem and provide information about the reasonable steps they have taken. We will then arrange a response.

If it becomes evident that the cause of the pests relates to tenancy issues (e.g. poor property cleanliness), or if reasonable preventative steps have not been taken, Loreto Community Housing may pass the cost of treatment to the tenant for payment or tenant charge (debt).