



## What are the best ways of getting rid of pests?

Transcript: Video clip presented by zoologist and author Lucy Cooke.

*LUCY COOKE:*

We've come to home who have reported a mouse problem. Imogen and I are going to begin by investigating the kitchen.

So Imogen this house has got a mouse problem. How do you know?

*IMOGEN:*

I know because the customer called me about the mice they'd seen and a mousey smell. I can now assume – having been here a few times – that the mice are moving underneath the floor between the adjoining properties.

Underneath the sink, this is an open bin.

*LUCY COOKE:*

They can travel up can they?

*IMOGEN:*

I think they can travel up and they can drop down.

Can you see – I did put some yellow dust under here...

*LUCY COOKE:*

Oh yes, I can!

*IMOGEN:*

And can you see now...

*LUCY COOKE:*

Yes. Gosh, you can see everything, can't you?

*IMOGEN:*

Can you see where the UV light is?

*LUCY COOKE:*

So the magic dust in action.

So now we can see with the UV that they are running all the way along here, we know the exact path. So now we can put traps down in exactly the right place, is that right?

*IMOGEN:*

That's right. I'm going to use a grain-based rodenticide in this open tray.

There we go. Very good fridge management skills.

OK, shall we go and look?

*LUCY COOKE:*

So what are the kind of things you're looking for in a mouse infestation?

*IMOGEN:*

Well behind a fridge I'd expect to find droppings. Yes and look there are some dropping down here under the fridge – can you see those droppings there?

*LUCY COOKE:*

Yes.

*IMOGEN:*

And around the back here?

Look this is a huge hole at the back here.

*LUCY COOKE:*

Yes.

*IMOGEN:*

Can you see that enormous hole?

*LUCY COOKE:*

So underneath here is a mouse superhighway?

*IMOGEN:*

That's it – exactly.

*LUCY COOKE:*

So what do you do when you see a hole like that that's very likely being used by mice as an entrance into a kitchen?

*IMOGEN:*

I do something called 'proofing' and to proof I use wire wool. It's a very strong wire wool. Fill the hole and stop the mice coming through.

*LUCY COOKE:*

Hopefully end of mice problem?

*IMOGEN:*

Yes.

*LUCY COOKE:*

Let's get that hole filled then.

In your opinion, is a mouse problem something that a regular person like me can handle by themselves?

*IMOGEN:*

You can easily handle a mouse problem yourself. I think anybody can I they just think like a mouse, act against the mice, they can conquer the mice.

*LUCY COOKE:*

So these are things you can do for yourself in your own home. You can look for holes, you can fill them, you can lay down poison. At what stage do you call in a professional?

*IMOGEN:*

Well I think that if you've done everything that I've suggested and you still have a mouse and they're increasing I think that you need to call a professional. And I think there's absolutely no shame in calling a professional. If you're toilet was broken you'd call a plumber. If you've got mice eating your food I think you should definitely call a pest controller.