

Rodents in the supermarket

Imagine yourself doing grocery shopping in your local supermarket, when you suddenly hear the familiar squeaky noise of a rodent, or worse, come face-to-face with a rat. Not really a pleasant thought, right?

On several occasions, security cameras in a supermarket in Barcelona spotted rats running between shelves and the staff discovered partly eaten foods here and there. Conscious of how unhygienic this was and how disastrous it would be if customers were to notice the unwelcome guests, the supermarket decided to act rapidly. Instead of simply buying and placing traps themselves, they contacted a local professional pest management company, Rains Control de Plagas S.L., hoping to eliminate the presence of rats permanently.

The professionals started by thoroughly inspecting the location and installing special infrared cameras designed to detect movements in order to monitor the activity of the rodents day and night.

After a week of surveillance, the professional pest managers were able to identify the source of the problem. All the rodents were accessing the premises from the same spot: the butcher counter! They noticed a small hole that had been made to enable electric wires to pass through during a recent remodelling of the supermarket.



Typical marks, in the form of black and greasy spots, could be seen around the hole; a sign that rodents had been repeatedly using the same way in and out.

The professional pest controllers thus used mesh specifically designed for rodents to cover the hole.

A year later, the memory of the rodents had completely faded away. The supermarket has been free from those furry pests ever since.



#TheGoodPestManager@Work

This series of fact sheets showcases sustainable pest management practices and products. They provide snapshots of the good pest manager at work.

From vector mapping via innovative software to digital rodent traps and heat treatments, pest management is a unique and multi-faceted service sector that helps secure hygiene and by so-doing contributes significantly to public health. It is increasingly important today in dealing with the effects of climate change which are resulting in a growing incidence of plagues of insects and rodents.

These case studies capture the essence of the thought leadership and business acumen of this service sector, not only through the digitalisation of services but equally through a concern to respect and take care of the environments where infestations occur. In all instances presented, innovation is at the core of these sustainable business practices.

CEPA is proud to champion innovative and sustainable pest management practices that can be used successfully on the ground. We call it #TheGoodPestManager@Work. Professional pest management is a service sector that does not receive broad recognition or visibility. We hope these illustrative examples will shed light on the way we operate to prevent and deal with pest infestation and the value we bring to society on a daily basis.

About CEPA

Founded in 1974, CEPA, the European pest management services trade association brings together more than 70 national associations and companies along the whole pest management chain in 23 European countries. CEPA represents primarily the European pest management service sector, which at its core is a network of European SMEs with substantial economic growth potential. Our mission as a service sector is to contribute to the protection and assurance of the wellbeing of EU citizens especially in the context of smart, sustainable, healthy cities. We work with a broad range of actors at local level from manufacturers to the catering sector, from hospitals to schools and other educational establishments, from retailers to public authorities, from a wide range of businesses to political institutions at all levels. Against a backdrop of climate change increasing the presence of pests in urban environments, the sound management of overpopulated cities has never been more critical. Our sector of the service industry is leading the charge in assuring tangible, sustainable solutions for the well-being of Europe's citizens.