

ECOWIZE

Keeping the rats from the door

South Africa's hospitality providers are being advised to take steps to safeguard their establishments from rat infestations, not only to protect reputations, but also as a precaution against legal action.

This is according to Eileen Slabber, MD of Ecofirst Pest Prevention and Hygiene Services – part of the Ecowize Group – who says that in today's hospitality environments, effective measures of control must be taken by management to ensure a pest-free environment that is in compliance with regulations.

"As winter approached we noted a marked increase in rat infestation cases, but this is only one example of a pest that breeds in a hospitality environment. Others are bed bugs, flies,

cockroaches and ants.

"It only takes one negative incident, spread via word of mouth or the media, to result in unwarranted publicity for a hotel."

Over and above getting expert infestation advice, Slabber has the following basic tips for hospitality players:

- ▶ Ensure that all doors to food preparation areas are kept closed.
- ▶ Remove all refuse and clean refuse areas frequently.
- ▶ Ensure that all refuse bins, toilets and drains are covered when not in use.
- ▶ Immediately isolate a room suspected of an infestation.
- ▶ Get a pest management professional to train housekeepers to recognise early pest infestation signs.
- ▶ Equip each housekeeping cart with a checklist for inspecting rooms.

Website: www.ecowize.co.za