

Poundland branch closed after inspectors uncover 'heavy rodent infestation'

By Laura Proto, Evening Standard, 19 January 2016, London, England



Poundland: The discount store at Wandsworth's Southside shopping centre was immediately closed Google Street View

A branch of discount store Poundland has been closed after mice droppings were found on top of food and “gnawed” packets were found on shelves.

The store at Southside shopping centre in Wandsworth was forced to close on Friday after environmental health inspectors visited the shop and found a heavy rodent infestation.

The shop was immediately closed by inspectors and it is not currently known when the branch will reopen.

Customers were alerted to the closure by a notice placed outside the store.

The hygiene emergency prohibition notice read: "A heavy rodent infestation causing health risks is present throughout the food areas in the customer service area and warehouse storage areas: gnawed foods, droppings on food and no-food contact surfaces."

One customer posted on his blog that a day after the store's closure, he visited the shopping centre and noticed a "whiff of bleach" in the air.

A Wandsworth Council spokesman said the infestation of mice was "very serious" and environmental health officers had "no choice" but to close the store with immediate effect.

The spokesman added: "The shop will not be permitted to sell any food items until the infestation has been addressed and rigorous pest control measures are in place to prevent this happening again.

"Food retail businesses must ensure that they do not jeopardise public health in any way if they wish to continue trading."

A spokesman for Poundland told the Wandsworth Guardian: "The store was closed to enable matters identified by our local environmental health officer to be investigated.

"Poundland takes matters relating to the health and safety of its colleagues and customers very seriously."