

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2014
TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER *HR For C.C.*
BY: LOUIS CELAYA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-1742; OPPOSING THE SALE, PURCHASE AND USE OF ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES IN THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS

In recent months, the Environmental Responsibility Committee (Mayor Pro Tem Buckley-Weber, Councilmember Schwartz) has discussed with City staff, City opposition to the use of rodenticides throughout the City. The neighboring cities of Calabasas and Malibu have also passed similar resolutions opposing the sale and use of rodenticides in their communities. This request stems from concerns regarding secondary poisoning and killing of wildlife and domestic animals resulting from the use of anticoagulant rodenticides by home and business owners to combat the infestation of rodents on their property, and EPA continues to take action to cancel and remove from the consumer market 12 D-Con brand mouse and rat poison products for similar concerns. The products contain active ingredients that cause lethal internal hemorrhaging in the animals that ingest the poison. Unfortunately, pets or wildlife may also be killed by ingesting rodenticides, or may become sick or die due to secondary exposure from consuming the dead or dying rodents. Some animals in California that have been identified as victims of secondary rodenticide poisoning include numerous varieties of hawks, owls, and other scavenging birds, as well as predators such as foxes, coyotes, raccoons and skunks.

As there are numerous, less dangerous alternatives available to address the problem of rodent infestation, including non-anticoagulant products or traps, and encouragement of natural predators, the City's Environmental Responsibility Committee has requested the City Council adopt Resolution No. 14-1742 to urge businesses in Agoura Hills to no longer use or sell anticoagulant rodenticides, urge all property owners to cease purchasing or using the poisons on their properties in Agoura Hills, and to commit the City of Agoura Hills to not use anticoagulant rodenticides, where feasible, as part of its maintenance program for City-owned parks and facilities.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 14-1742; opposing the sale, purchase and use of anticoagulant rodenticides in the City of Agoura Hills.

Attachments: Resolution No. 14-1742
CA. Department of Fish & Game – Rodenticides Information Sheet
Controlling Rodents - USEPA
Safe Rodent Control Resource Center - Rodent Control Information Sheet

RESOLUTION NO. 14-1742

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING THE SALE, PURCHASE AND USE OF ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES IN THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS

WHEREAS, anticoagulant rodenticides are poisonous bait products, available to the public, used to combat the infestation of rodents in business and residential properties.; and

WHEREAS, anticoagulant rodenticides are used as bait, which the rodents ingest, causing lethal internal hemorrhaging; and

WHEREAS, pets and wildlife may also become sick or die from ingesting rodenticides directly, or due to secondary exposure after consuming the dead or dying rodents; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, neighboring communities, such as the cities of Calabasas and Malibu, have adopted similar resolutions opposing the sale, purchase and use of anticoagulant rodenticides in their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Agoura Hills hereby urges businesses in Agoura Hills to no longer use or sell anticoagulant rodenticides, urges all property owners to cease purchasing or using anticoagulant rodenticides on their properties in Agoura Hills, and commits the City of Agoura Hills to not use anticoagulant rodenticides, where feasible, as part of its maintenance program for City-owned parks and facilities.

The City Clerk shall certify the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 12th day of February 2014, by the following vote to wit:

AYES: ()
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

William D. Koehler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly M. Rodrigues, MMC, City Clerk

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE

[Home](#) → [Education and Outreach](#) → [Rodenticides](#)

Rodenticides can harm wildlife; please use carefully

Throughout California, the careless use of poison baits used to control rodents has injured and killed numerous wild animals and pets. This is because scavenging birds like owls, hawks, and predators such as raccoons, foxes, skunks and coyotes that eat dead or dying rodents that have consumed these baits will also be poisoned.

Pets will also eat dead or dying rodents and unprotected bait. You can protect both pets and wildlife by reading – and following – the label directions of any rodent baits you purchase, and only purchasing those that are legal for the pest you are trying to control.

Protect your wild neighbors and pets from accidental poisoning. Use all pesticides very carefully and follow all label directions, or choose organic or mechanical pest control methods.

Rodenticide Baits: Frequently-Asked Questions

Q. How do rodent baits harm wildlife and pets?

A. It's possible for wildlife and pets to consume the poison directly. However, it's more likely that these animals have received a secondary exposure. A secondary exposure occurs when wildlife or pets consume dead or dying rodents that have eaten the rodent bait. Wildlife that can be affected by secondary poisoning include owls, hawks, other scavenging birds and predators such as raccoons, foxes, skunks and coyotes.

Q. How can I protect wildlife and pets, but still control rodent pests?

A. Rodent bait users must follow label directions carefully. Some rodent baits, for example those that contain the active ingredients **chlorphacinone** and **diphacinone**, are legal to use in outdoor areas. These products can be used to control field rodents such as gophers, voles and ground squirrels. Other rodent bait products, such as those that contain the active ingredients **brodifacoum**, **bromodialone** or **difethialone**, can only be used to control rodents found within structures, like rats and mice.

→ Read product labels carefully before using any pesticide, and follow directions exactly.

→ Check daily for dead rodents. Wearing gloves, collect the carcasses as soon as possible, place in plastic bags and dispose in garbage cans with tight lids that other animals can't open. Always wear protective gloves when handling any dead animal.

Q. Where can I get the rodenticide with chlorphacinone and diphacinone?

A. These products are sold at many hardware, nursery and farm supply stores. Depending on the county, they may also be sold by the county agricultural commissioner's office.

Q. Why are chlorphacinone and diphacinone safer to use in open spaces?

A. Chlorphacinone and diphacinone are less toxic to mammals, and are eliminated rather quickly from the bodies of animals that ingest them. These products generally require multiple feedings before killing rodent pests.

Q. What kind of rodenticides should I NOT use in the yard, away from buildings?

A. Over-the-counter rodenticides, such as **d-Con®**, that contain the active ingredients **brodifacoum**, **bromodialone** or **difethialone**. These can only be legally used to control rats and house mice **in and around structures**. It is illegal to

use these products in open areas such as pastures or fields.

Q. Why is brodifacoum so dangerous for wildlife and pets?

A. Brodifacoum, bromodialone and difethialone pose a greater secondary toxicity risk to wildlife and pets than products that contain chlorphacinone and diphacinone. These products are more toxic to mammals, stay longer in the bodies of animals that ingest them and can kill with a single feeding. Their residues are most likely ingested by scavenging dead rodents. Deer are sometimes attracted to the pellet form of brodifacoum.

Q. How do these rodent baits work?

A. Both types of rodenticides are anti-coagulants. Animals that ingest them die from internal hemorrhaging (bleeding).

Q. How do you know rodent baits are poisoning wildlife?

A. Since 1994, CDFW's Pesticide Investigations Unit has confirmed at least 136 cases of wildlife poisoning from anticoagulant rodent baits. Brodifacoum was the poison most frequently detected. Animals harmed include coyote, gray fox, San Joaquin kit fox, raccoon, fox squirrel, bobcat, red fox, mountain lion, black bear, Hermann's kangaroo rat, golden eagle, Canada goose, great-horned owl, barn owl, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, Cooper's hawk, turkey vulture and wild turkey.

Since animals typically retreat to their dens, burrows or other hiding places in the final stages of anticoagulant poisoning, the number of non-target wildlife killed by these compounds may be much greater than we know. CDFW researchers have found that most birds and mammals killed by anti-coagulants are found in areas adjacent to urban development.

Q. Can I control rodent pests without using poison baits?

A. You can discourage some rodents from moving in by keeping grasses mowed at no more than two inches or by disking around sites that need to be protected. (See Vole Control, below.)

Q. I found a dead raccoon (or other small wild animal) in my yard. What should I do?

A. First, do NOT touch it bare-handed. Wildlife can carry diseases and parasites, so always wear protective clothing – especially gloves – before handling dead or dying animals of any kind. If you're in an urban or suburban area, call your city or county animal control office with detailed information about the animal's appearance and condition. Even if they don't have the staff to come retrieve it, they need to know about it, as the one you found may not be the only one.

Q. If I think my pet has been poisoned, what should I do?

A. If your pet is having seizures, is unconscious or losing consciousness, or is having difficulty breathing, phone ahead and take your pet immediately to your local veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic.

Vole Control

Rodent baits are often used to control voles. Their populations tend to be cyclical and once established, vole colonies are not easy to control.

One of the most effective ways to discourage voles from moving in is to simply mow grasses down to no more than two inches or disk around sites that need to be protected. Either action will reduce or eliminate their preferred habitat. Often, if you don't control the vole population, there may be little you can do about it. The secret is to protect sensitive sites – such as gardens – by mowing or disking the area **before** the population gets too high.

If you must use a rodent bait to control voles, only use those baits intended for field rodents. Their labels will identify chlorphacinone or diphacinone as the active ingredient. Baits should only be used in small treatment areas and the areas should be checked daily for dead rodents.

With very high vole populations, rodent baits may ultimately have little effect. The best approach is to protect sensitive sites – such as gardens – by mowing or disking the area before the population gets too high.

More Information

- » [Organic pest control and alternatives to poison, UC Davis Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) Program](#)
- » [Pesticide products evaluated by the CA Department of Pesticide Regulation \(DPR\)](#)

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<http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/controlling/rodents.htm>

Last updated on Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Pesticides: Controlling Pests

You are here: [EPA Home](#) * [Pesticides](#) * [Controlling Pests](#) * [Controlling Rodents](#)

Controlling Rodents

Este Web page está disponible [en español](#)

People can successfully control rodents through a variety of means. This page provides information about preventing, identifying, and treating rodent infestations. It also addresses regulation of rodent-control products and safe pesticide use.

Why be concerned: Each year, rodents cause significant damage to property and food supplies across the United States. In addition to damaging property, rodents may also spread diseases, posing a serious risk to public health. [Rodent-borne diseases](#) can be transferred directly to humans through bite wounds or consumption of contaminated food and/or water, or indirectly by way of ticks, mites, and fleas that transmit the infection to humans after feeding on infected rodents.

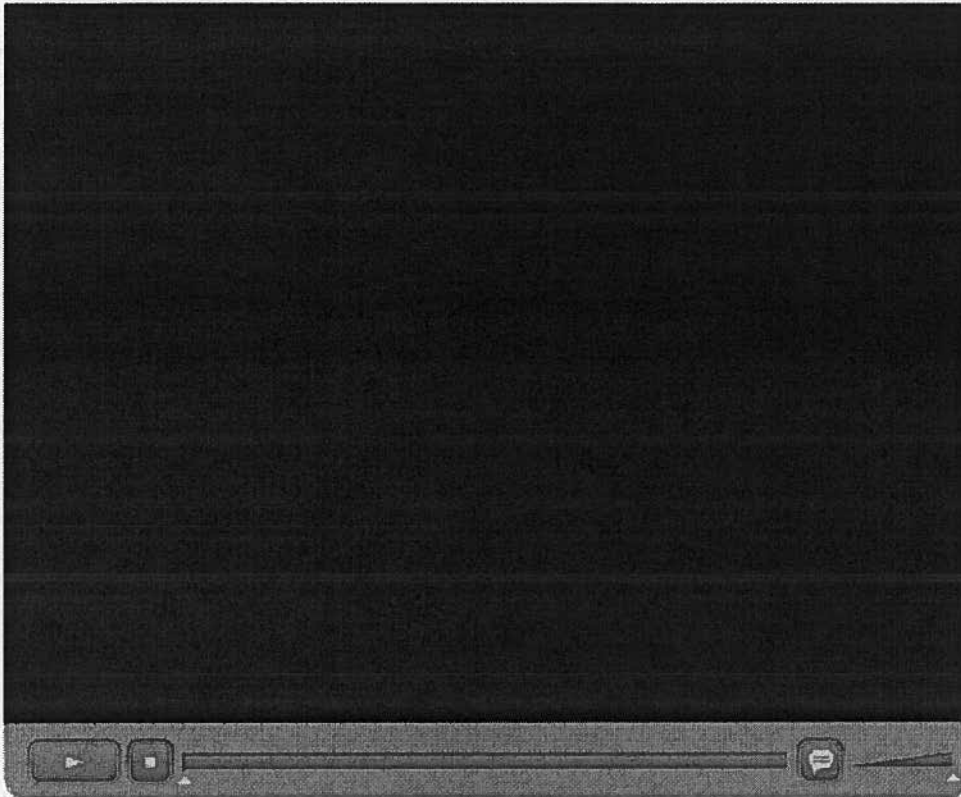
What YOU can do: There are many things that you can do to prevent or treat rodent problems, even without the use of chemical rodenticides. Learn more about rodent control, and safe use and regulation of rodenticides.

- [Educational Video: "Infestations Vacations"](#)
- [Prevent Rodent Infestations](#)
- [Identify Rodent Infestations](#)
- [Treat Rodent Infestations](#)
- [Safely Use Rodent Control Products](#)
- [Tips for Hiring a Rodent Control Professional](#)
- [Regulating Rodent Control Products](#)
- [Who Is Involved in Rodent Control?](#)
- [In Case of an Emergency...](#)
- [For More Information](#)

Quick Resources

- [Secure Pesticides and Chemicals during Poison Prevention Week](#)
- [Regulating Rodenticides](#)
- [Pest Control Devices](#)
- [Pesticide Health and Safety](#)
- [Pesticides and Public Health](#)
- [List of Public Health Pests \(PRN 2002-1\) \(PDF\) \(32 pp, 347k, about PDF\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[EXIT Disclaimer](#)
- [Questions on pesticides? National Pesticide Information Center 1-800-858-7378](#)
[EXIT Disclaimer](#)

Educational Video: "Infestations Vacations"



Credits: Howard University's CapComm Lab, Earth Conservation Corps, and EPA

This short video, produced by Howard University's CapComm Lab, the Earth Conservation Corps, and EPA, takes a humorous look at how conditions inside the home can provide food, water, and shelter where pests can thrive, and provides practical ways to prevent infestations.

Formats:

This video is also offered in alternate formats for downloading and viewing:

NOTE: Download times for the videos may vary depending on the speed of your Web connection and other factors.

- [Infestations Vacations in mov format](#) (Quicktime Player, 1:13 min, 265MB)
- [Infestations Vacations in flv format](#) (Flash FLV Player, 1:13 min, 4.2MB)
- [Infestations Vacations on YouTube website](#)

Players:

- **MOV** - clips play on the QuickTime Player which is available for free at: [QuickTime Player](#). [EXIT Disclaimer](#)
 - **FLV** - clips play on the Flash FLV Player which is available for free at: [Flash FLV Player](#) [EXIT Disclaimer](#)
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Prevent Rodent Infestations

To discourage rodent infestations and avoid contact with rodents, remove the food sources, water, and items that provide them shelter.

- Seal holes inside and outside the home to prevent entry by rodents. This may be as simple as inserting steel wool in small holes, or patching holes in inside or outside walls.
 - Trap rodents outside the home to help reduce the rodent population within.
 - Clean up potential rodent food sources and nesting sites.
 - [More prevention tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
[EXIT Disclaimer](#)
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Identify Rodent Infestations

If preventive measures alone do not work, control of a rodent infestation will rely on identifying the problem's source in order to choose an appropriate treatment method. Unless an infestation is severe, you may never physically see a mouse or rat. Some signs of rodent infestation may include:

- rodent droppings around food packages, in drawers or cupboards, and/or under the sink;
- nesting material such as shredded paper, fabric, or dried plant matter;
- evidence of gnawing and chewing on food packaging or structures;
- evidence of damaged structures providing entry points into the home; and
- stale smells coming from hidden areas.

Pictures of and information about rodents commonly found in the United States are available through [CDC](#) and the [National Pest Management Association \(NPMA\)](#) [EXIT Disclaimer](#).

Treat Rodent Infestations

To remove rodents, you will need to use traps or rodenticide baits in tamper resistant bait stations.

Traps include:

- **Lethal traps** - such as snap traps, are designed to trap and kill rodents.
- **Live traps** - such as cage-type traps, capture rodents alive and unharmed, but the rodents must then be released or killed. Unless you have sealed the entry points into the house, live rodents released outside may find their way back into the house.

Rodenticides are poisons intended to kill rodents. To protect children, pets and wildlife, use only rodenticides sold with tamper resistant bait stations. Rodenticides for consumer use include:

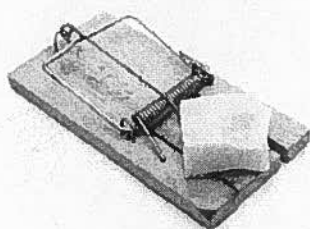
- **Baits** - rodenticide poisons are combined with palatable material to attract rodents. Rodents die after consuming the chemical contained in the bait.
- Bait products for consumer use must be sold and used with tamper resistant bait stations that prevent access by children, pets and wildlife.
- Bait forms that cannot be secured in bait stations, such as pellets or powders, are prohibited

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Rodent Control Strategies



Electric Trap

Got Rats And Mice?

Use exclusion and sanitation tactics to get rid of rodents in a safe and cost-effective way. The most effective long-term solution is to keep rodents out in the first place. Measures such as sealing entry points prevent rodents from entering buildings and help you avoid a full-scale invasion.

Follow the tips in the sections below and you will be one step closer to keeping your home permanently free of rats and mice.

Need Gopher or Mole Controls?

The Basics On Rodent Control

Rats and mice are not only a nuisance but can also cause property damage and transmit diseases. You'll know they've arrived if you see rodent droppings near a food source or shredded fabric or paper. If you identify rodents, there are several steps to take to ensure permanent removal of these pests.

Removing rodents with traps or poisons will not keep rodents out of your home in the future. To permanently keep rats and mice out of your home or business, you will need to prevent access by sealing all possible entry points. It is equally important to eliminate rodent attractions such as food and water by keeping food in tightly sealed containers and repairing leaky pipes.

Common Sources of Food and Water

- Food in unsealed containers such as bags of chips, rice, cereal, crackers, flour, and other non-perishables.
- Pet food and water left out overnight or in a bag rather than in a secure container.
- Fruits or vegetables in open bowls left outside of refrigerator.
- Leaky pipes or faucets throughout the house.

Common Rodent Access Points

- Holes near cabinets, closets or doors leading to outside or crawl spaces.
- Holes around sink or appliance pipes.
- Cracked foundations in the basement or unscreened ventilation holes in the attic, especially in older structures.
- Holes around windows or doors.

ON THIS PAGE:

- Got Rats And Mice?
- The Basics On Rodent Control
- Maintaining A Rodent-Free Home
- Treating Rodent Infestations
- Achieving Success
- Rodenticides
- Additional Resources

Popular Recent Facebook

California to Restrict Certain Rodenticides
696 Views

Rats Poisoning Your Day?
645 Views

Got rats? New safe rodent control website to the rescue!
480 Views

Feds Weigh Options for Eradicating Invasive Mice on the Farallon Islands
449 Views

Are Gophers or Moles Ruining Your Yard?
446 Views

- *Open trash and compost containers.*
- *Missing screens in vents or crawl spaces under buildings.*

Once you have blocked the access points and removed sources of food and water, you'll need to eliminate the remaining rodents. The following sections offer an overview of different treatment options and serve as useful guidance for keeping your home or business permanently free of rats and mice.

Guidelines To Maintaining A Rodent-Free Home

Three Guiding Principles:

Prevent!	Identify!	Treat!
Seal entry points to prevent rodents from entering your home or business. Be sure to use 1/4" x 1/4" metal mesh to seal off existing entry points. For more tips on how to exclude rodents and what type of materials to use, visit University of Florida's Non-Chemical Rodent Control page.	Look for signs of rats and mice such as rodent droppings round food, kitchen corners, inside cabinets or under sinks.	Remove rodents by using snap or electronic traps. Be cautious with live traps as rodents might urinate which increases the risk of spreading disease. In addition, some states prohibit releasing rodents into the wild.
Remove rodent attractions such as food or shelter by ensuring that food is securely stored and that surroundings are clean.	Also, look for nesting material such as shredded paper or fabric.	Install barn owl nesting boxes to naturally control rodents.

Outdoor Recommendations:

- Don't plant ivy — it provides shelter and a food source for rodents: snails and slugs. Ivy on walls can form "rat ladders" to windows, attics and other interior spaces.
- Keep compost piles as far away from structures as possible and grass cut to no more than two inches tall.
- Maintain at least a 2 foot space between bushes, shrubs, fences, and buildings. Also, remove tree limbs within 3 feet of a structure or roof.
- Avoid having a birdfeeder since it provides a source of food for rodents.
- Keep outdoor grills and cooking areas clean.
- Keep firewood off the ground and as far away from structures as possible to mitigate shelter opportunities.
- Use city-issue plastic trash bins. If cracked or missing a lid, contact the Department of Sanitation for a replacement.

Indoor Recommendations:

- Encase all food items such as breakfast cereals, chips, and crackers in containers.
- Opt for garbage bins and compost containers with a top that seals tightly.
- Rinse food and beverage containers before discarding or recycling.
- Clean your garbage and recycling bins frequently.
- Do not leave pet food or water out overnight.
- Maintain stove tops clean and free of food scraps.
- De-clutter your home of papers, fabric, and any similar materials that attract rodents for nesting.
- Repair leaky pipes.
- Seal entry points around cabinets, interior walls, attic, and crawl spaces with steel wool, caulk, or 1/4" x 1/4" metal mesh.
- Maintain attic, crawl spaces, and cabinets near sinks clean and free of moisture.

For more tips, visit University of Florida's Non-Chemical Rodent Control page.

Promote Natural Predators

Natural predators such as snakes, hawks, and owls can help to control rodent populations by feeding on rats and mice. Barn owls are efficient hunters and a family of barn owls can eat as many as 3000 mice per year. To encourage barn owls to nest and stay in your area, consider installing a nesting box. Strategic placement of nesting boxes combined with the use of traps and other preventative measures will go a long way to managing your rodent problems.

For more information on installing and maintaining nesting boxes, visit the Hungry Owl Project or the Barn Owl Box Company. Please note that the Hungry Owl Project strongly urges that NO rodent poisons be used indoors or outdoors while encouraging owls to your property. Using rodent poisons could kill an owl if it feeds on a poisoned rodent.

Treating Rodent Infestations

If you confirm that rats or mice are present in your home, you will need to use a combination of preventative measures and treatment options to get rid of them. The preventative measures include, removing food, water, shelter, and access to your home. This section will focus on the treatment options available and provide an overview of traps.

Summary of Rodent Control Recommendations

<p>RECOMMENDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Seal holes ◆ Securely store food ◆ Use Electronic or Snap Traps 	<p>USE WITH CAUTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Live Traps 	<p>AVOID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Glue Traps 	<p>DO NOT USE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Any Rodenticide Baits ◆ Especially, Second-Generation Rodenticides
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Types of Traps

Benefits of Using Traps

Using traps instead of rodent poisons gives you clear confirmation of a captured rodent and allows you to better gauge the effectiveness of treatment. You are also able to dispose of rodents immediately rather than dealing with the foul odor of rotting carcasses from poisoned rodents inside your walls or otherwise out of reach. Most important, using traps allows you to avoid rodenticides, which pose a greater threat of exposure to children, pets, and non-target wildlife, including natural predators.

Traps	Description
Snap Trap	This is the oldest type of trap and uses a spring-loaded bar to kill a rodent on contact. Some modern snap traps prevent risk to children and pets by enclosing the device in a plastic box.
Electronic Trap	This battery-powered trap delivers an electric shock that kills rodents quickly. This is a newer type of trap, and models are available for both rats and mice.
Live-Animal Trap	This is a catch and release system that avoids killing a rat or mouse. Some states prohibit releasing rodents into the wild. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) warns that captured rats or mice might urinate and increase risk of spreading disease.
Multiple-Catch Live Mouse Trap	This is a catch and release system that allows for capture of multiple mice. See warnings for the live animal trap above.
Glue Trap	Glue traps are not recommended because the adhesive plate that is used to capture rodents can also trap birds, baby animals, lizards, and even pets. These traps also cause undue suffering to rodents. The CDC warns that captured rats or mice might urinate and increase the risk of spreading disease.

Enclosure boxes are plastic boxes that can fit a single snap trap, sometimes more, in order to provide an additional layer of protection for kids and pets. These boxes also hide the dead rodent, making for easier disposal of rodent, and can be re-used.



When using traps, take the following safety steps:

- Always read and follow the label instructions on the rodent control product.
- Be sure to place traps in locations where children and pets cannot access them or place traps in safety enclosure boxes.

Cleaning up after trapping rodents

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends the following safety tips:

- Use gloves when disposing of dead rodents, nests, or any nesting material.
- Spray the dead rodent or nesting material with a disinfectant solution and allow them to soak for 5 minutes before disposing rodent or materials in a secure plastic bag.
- Spray and wipe up the area surrounding dead rodent or nesting material with a disinfectant.
- Place the plastic bag with rodent or nesting material into another plastic bag along with any wipes or rags that were used to sanitize the surrounding area.
- Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

For tips on cleaning up rodent urine and droppings, see the CDC's Cleaning up after rodents page.

Review all your options before deciding on a treatment plan. If you decide to work with a pest control professional, be sure the company is Ecowise, GreenShield or GreenPro certified and familiar with Integrated Pest Management techniques.

Achieving Success

Preventing and treating rodent infestations requires a combination of eliminating access points rats and mice might use to enter your home, removing food sources and shelter that attract rodents, and using traps to get rid of existing rats and mice in or around your home.

Using a multi-tactic approach to manage rodents decreases the risk of dealing with future infestations since a significant piece of the puzzle is adopting preventative measures such as blocking access and eliminating food and water sources that attract rats and mice.

The Fundamentals



Rodenticides

Rodenticides consist of different types of poisons used to kill rodents. Rodenticide baits can be lethal for any mammal or bird that ingests them and are not only poisonous for rodents. As a result, all baits pose a high risk of poisoning for non-target animals that might eat the bait or consume a poisoned rat or mouse.

For more information on different types of rodenticides, please visit our Rodenticides page.

If you choose to use rodenticides, you should be ready to deal with these potential consequences:

- Rodents are likely to die in locations where they cannot be retrieved. The smell of a dead animal will persist for several weeks to several months.
- If you or your neighbors have cats or dogs, they may die or become acutely ill from eating poisoned rodents.
- Predatory birds like hawks, eagles and owls, and mammalian predators such as foxes and coyotes may die from eating poisoned rodents or a rodenticide bait.
- Children are at risk of accidental poisoning since they might mistake the rodenticide bait for candy or food.

If after assessing the risks to children, pets, and wildlife of using rodenticides, you still determine that rodenticides are necessary, take these precautionary steps to reduce risk:

- Always read and follow the label instructions on the pesticide product. The label is the law and you could be liable for any damage resulting from not following the label instructions.
- Use only US EPA approved products that are sold and used with tamper resistant bait stations to protect children, pets, and wildlife. See US EPA's list of rodenticide bait station products here.
- Indoors, only place rodenticide bait stations in locations that are completely inaccessible to children and pets—inside walls, under heavy appliances, or in enclosed crawlspaces.
- To protect wildlife, consumer-use rodenticide bait products must not contain the second-generation anticoagulants (brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, and difethialone) as active ingredients (US EPA).
- Once all signs of rodents are gone, remove bait stations promptly by placing in a secure plastic bag.

Additional Resources

- University of California, Davis IPM Online: Pests of homes, structures, people and pets.
- University of Florida's IFAS Extension: Non-chemical rodent control measures.
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: Information on disease hazards posed by rodent infestations.
- National Pesticide Information Center: Provides objective, science-based information about pesticides to enable people to make informed decisions about pesticides usage.
- US Environmental Protection Agency:
 - Controlling rodents
 - Rodenticide cancellation
 - Rodenticide comparison
 - Safer Rodenticide Products

Like 24

Safe Rodent Control

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📧 SRC Tweets

Heard about rat poison in the environment? Listen to this radio segment on the risks to kids, pets and wildlife. <http://t.co/K0ikuNoxgs>
 SRC has gathered a sampling of letters sent to CA DPR to comment on the proposed restriction of SGARs. Read them here <http://t.co/5jIf0zMaQ2>
 Public comment on a pending decision to use #rodenticides to control mice in the Farallon Islands, Pt. Reyes Nov 20th <http://t.co/hyKs2nCOFE>

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