

Alternatives to harmful rat and mice poisons

Snap traps are one of the most humane methods of rodent control, but make sure you set them up where pets and children can't access them. The most effective spots to place snap traps are in **high-activity areas like dark corners**, along walls, behind appliances and objects, and all areas where droppings are evident.

There are also a range of other non-poison traps on shelves to investigate.

If you do decide to use rodenticides as a last resort, make sure you choose a natural alternative or First-Generation Anticoagulant rodenticide product.

The most popular types of rat poison for sale:

1. First-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide:

Look for active ingredients like Warfarin (Ratsak Double-strength) and Coumatetralyl (Racumin) in locked bait stations. The poison breaks down in the rodent quickly so less chance of secondary poisoning but is still a risk to animals that eat the bait directly. Use only in areas where pets and children cannot access if this poison needs to be used.

2. Avoid Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide:

Look for active ingredients like Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Difenacoum, Difethialone or Flocoumafen. Takes a long time to break down in the rodent. Poses a huge risk to animals that eat the bait or poisoned rodents. Avoid use entirely, products including Talon, Fast Action RatSak, and The Big Cheese Fast Action brands.

3. **“Natural” alternatives:** These usually use salt to dehydrate rodents until they die and include products like RatSak Naturals. These products have not been shown to impact native wildlife through secondary poisoning.

Ensure you immediately dispose of any rodent carcasses to prevent harm to pets or wildlife.

But remember – poisoned rodents can remain alive and active for days, so using rodenticides indoors won't prevent them escaping and posing a risk to other animals.



For more info on our campaign to get these poisons off the shelves, and on how you can help in your community. **Scan this code – QR code**

IMAGES: TAWNY FROGMOUTH AND BOOBOOK BY ANDREW SILCOCKS, NANKEEN KESTREL BY HEATHER THORNING

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Bird-friendly rodent control for gardeners

Making better choices!



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Visits from unwelcome pests

When rats or mice show up uninvited, we often reach straight for the rodent bait. But while we do our best to ensure baits are placed out of the reach of children, pets and other animals, we rarely think twice about where rodents go after they've consumed them.

While we may not realise it, when we decide to use rodent baits around our houses and gardens, our decisions can have a serious impact on the native wildlife around us.

BUT WE CAN MAKE BETTER CHOICES!

Make your garden bird-friendly (not rat-friendly!)

Making your house and garden less enticing for rodents to feed, shelter and nest in is also a great way to keep your local native wildlife safe.

Try:

- Storing excess pet food where rodents can't get to it
- Rodent-proofing your chicken pens and aviaries
- Sealing potential access points, such as roof and wall cavities
- Removing fallen fruit from trees, and
- Keeping your yard, sheds and garden waste clean and tidy.

What about my compost heap?

- Ensure your compost bin is rodent proof by installing vermin mesh or chicken wire on the base, and
- Keep your compost heap moist and be sure to turn it over often – so that it will break down faster. Big chunks on the top are more attractive to rats!



These products can kill not only the rats and mice they are targeting, but any bird or animal that might eat a dead or dying rodent.



Having healthy populations of birds of prey helps keep pest rodent numbers down naturally, another reason to avoid rodenticides.

Encouraging native predators to your garden

Having healthy populations of birds of prey helps keep pest rodent numbers down naturally, another reason to avoid rodenticides. To encourage birds in your backyard:

Try:

- Planting owl-friendly native plants and trees with a good canopy cover (and removing rat-friendly plants like palm trees)
- Installing appropriately designed nest boxes for owls to breed in
- Using snap traps instead of rodent baits. Snap traps are the most humane method of lethal rodent control, but make sure you set them up where pets and children can't access them.