

Rodent Poison and Our Wildlife



What you should know. Research shows that anticoagulant rodenticide, commonly referred to as rat poisons, meant to control (kill) rodents, are also killing our native wildlife.

How? Rodents do not die in the bait boxes used to poison them. Instead, the poisoned rodents leave the box and move around the environment for several days before they die. These toxic rodents are easily caught and eaten by our wildlife and the poisons pass up the food chain, leading to the death of many wild animals such as hawks, owls, bobcats, foxes, and even mountain lions.

The pictures on the right show examples of poison bait boxes found around businesses, schools, residences, and restaurants. Is wildlife at risk in your community?



Help Stop This Toxic Food Chain

You and your community can make a difference! Take action and stop the use of rodent poison at home, at school, and in your community.



90% of bobcats tested during an NPS study in LA and Ventura Counties had rodent poisons in their systems.

To control rodents without poison, use traps and remove the resources that attract them such as food, water, and shelter.

- Use mechanical traps such as capture, snap, and electronic traps.
- If you choose to hire a company to assist you, make sure they perform rodent exclusion techniques rather than pest control.

Prevent access into houses or buildings

- Seal all holes, gaps, and crevices that allow access into businesses, homes, garages, attics, and crawl spaces.
- Use 1/4 inch metal mesh or metal flashing to seal up entry points and steel wool from small holes.
- Keep hedges and bushes away from buildings.
- Remove tree limbs within three feet of roofs and buildings.

Remove rodent food sources

- Prevent access to fruiting trees and gardens.
 - Trim fruit tree branches two to three feet away from fences and wires.
 - Secure metal band (36" tall) around fruit trees trunks to prevent climbing.
- Prevent access to bird feeders and fallen bird seed.
- Feed pets inside and secure trash and compost bins.
- Keep trash and recycling areas clean and bins covered.
- Replace trash cans and dumpsters with holes.

Remove rodent shelter

- Remove ivy and trim thick vegetation.
- Remove wood and debris piles.
- Seal up under decks (use 1/4 metal wire or solid panels).

Getting Started: A Home Checklist

Seal Up House

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Attic vents | <i>1/4 inch wire/staple gun or washer and screws</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Vent pipes on roof | <i>1/4 inch wire</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Crawl space under house | <i>Secured board</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Under decks | <i>1/4 inch wire, bury under ground</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cable and pipe holes into house wall | <i>Metal flashing, 1/4 inch wire/foam/steel wool</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gaps under doors | <i>Weather stripping/threshold</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gaps under garage doors | <i>Weather stripping</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Drier vent | <i>1/4 inch wire</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gaps in roof (specifically tile roofs) | <i>1/4 inch wire/tile plugs</i> |

Tools

Yard Modifications

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Trim branches away from roof and fences | <i>2-3 feet, to prevent rodents from jumping</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Metal or non-metal band or cone on trunk of fruit trees | <i>Sheet metal 2-3 feet wide, 5-6 feet off ground</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Secure compost piles | <i>Use enclosed compost habits</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Secure trash cans | <i>Use lids and replace cans with holes</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Keep hedges away from house | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Remove vegetation growing on house walls | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Trim thick vegetation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Remove ivy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Trim bushes 2 feet up from the ground | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Remove debris/junk piles | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Trim branches away from roof and fences | |

Tools



Thick vegetation and ivy provide rodents with shelter and protection



For more information, visit our Nature Neighbor page: go.nps.gov/natureneighbor

To request a program for your community about rodent poisons and/or co-existing with wildlife, email: natureneighbor@nps.gov