



Advice for Rodent Control

SIX STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL RODENT CONTROL

(A guide for industry and the home user)

NB: Always keep children and pets away from Pesticides and Rodenticides

NB: Always wash your hands thoroughly after using baits or coming into contact with rodents.

Rats & Mice can be quickly controlled by following a well planned and focussed baiting campaign.

Rodent control programmes often fail because:

Not enough product is used.

Baiting stops too soon

The bait is put in the wrong place

The wrong type of product is used

Follow up inspection is too late

To help you get the most out of our rodenticides our suppliers have developed their "Six steps" to a successful Rodent control programme.

Follow these steps and your problem will soon be over.

Step 1 - Tidy Up

Before baiting, tidy up the area to reduce the number of places rats might like to nest, feed and drink.

Remove and destroy rubbish, old pallets, broken machinery, piles of sacks / bags etc. These provide ideal areas in which rats can live and hide.

Repair leaking pipes—inside and out of buildings. Rats must drink every day to survive. Deny them water and they will have to find it elsewhere.

Seal the bottom of the wooden doors with a metal strip so rats cannot gnaw their way through to feed stores.

Keep all doors shut to keep rats out.

Store feed and dry goods away from walls—just a foot will do. This stops rats nesting behind them.

Clear up food spoils immediately. If rats can access high energy animal feed easily, they are less likely to even the highest quality bait.

BE AHEAD OF THE GAME GIVE RATS A HARD TIME THIS WINTER.

Step 2 - Look for signs

Monitor rodent activity so you can plan an effective baiting programme.

Make a sketch of the area, date it and make a note of where you see signs of rat activity. This will highlight the area that should be at the centre of your baiting programme.

Look for actual sightings. Make sure your dog doesn't run ahead and scare rats back into their burrows before you see them.

Look for footprints in damp earth, these will often lead back to the nesting and burrowing areas.

If you have earth works in your area they may be riddled with burrows and are a must for treatment.

Look for signs of fresh damage such as chewing through sacks or bin liners and gnawing at the edge of doors and window frames.

Look for fresh droppings. These will be softer and darker than older dryer ones and are a good sign of recent activity.

Look for tell tale smears of grease from their belly fur where they have climbed up and along walls and roof trusses

Listen for squeaking as rats jostle and fight as they try and establish a territory.

Once this has been defined the rats will settle down into a routine of sleeping in their nests and moving out to feed and drink.

TAKE TIME TO SURVEY THE SITE SO YOU CAN PLAN A FOCUSSED CAMPAIGN.

Step 3 - Choose the right rodenticide

There is no such thing as a universal rodenticide.

Successful control will be achieved where the best product is chosen for the problem in hand.

Rats like to feed on one food source at a time. Take advantage of this by matching the type of bait to their preferred food source.

Baits come in a variety of bait types to use in different situations.

Use enough rodenticide: The main reason control programmes fail is due to under—dosing. This occurs if:

Not enough bait is used per baiting point.

Not enough bait stations are put down in key locations.

Active bait stations are not replenished quickly enough.

Step 4 - Follow a sound baiting routine

Securely place the bait. Record the time and date.

Use the correct amount of bait.

Never under bait this is false economy. Place enough baiting points to cover the treatment area.

Service the bait points as often as you can, at least every 2-3 day, preferably

every day. The more often you check, the quicker you will achieve control.

Replenish busy bait stations.

Hunt for any untouched bait points and move them to sites of greater activity.

Inspect for dead rats and dirty or spoiled bait. Collect these for secure disposal.

Non target protection. Make sure Wild Life, Domestic animals and children cannot reach the bait. THIS IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT.

End of treatment tidy up as is often forgotten, but an essential part of a safe campaign. Store the unused bait and any measuring cups/spoons out of reach of children and pets.

Ways to bait:

Spoon bait directly and deeply down active burrows.

Bait can be placed under propped sheets of wood, metal sheets or slates to protect it from bad weather but remember if it can be seen it can be accessed by non targets.

BE RESPONSIBLE, USE PESTICIDES CAREFULLY. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL.

Step 5 - Stop new rats coming in

A well planned rat control programme that uses enough of the right bait, in the right places, at the right time, should achieve a high level of success.

However in early winter this will not be the end of the story. New rats will soon come in to fill the gap left by the population just wiped out. This means follow up treatments may be needed two or three weeks after initial baiting.

Most immigrant rats will travel down recognised and identifiable routes such as hedges, drainage channels and field margins. Anticipate their movements and cut off entry into the affected area.

Permanent bait points are discouraged, as they pose risk to non-target species.

However if rats are seen coming in this way, place temporary baiting points along their direction of travel.

In-comers will occupy deserted burrows and may soon gain a foothold in the area if not dealt with swiftly.

The risk of migrant rats will lessen as winter progresses, as any rats left in the fields will generally die there.

Time spent on a well planned rat control before Christmas will mean less to do in the new year.

Step 6 - Remain vigilant

Don't give up once the resident population has been eliminated. There will always be new colonies waiting to take advantage of the area. Successful rodent control requires ongoing thought and attention.

Although rats will not breed in the depths of winter they certainly will come spring time. As each female can produce eight young every 22 days, the population could explode before the rats move back out into the fields next summer.

If you see new rat activity carry out a new baiting programme immediately. It is easier to kill a few hungry rats than a plague.

Continue the tidy up and maintenance schedule.

If you would like to know more about rats or which product best suits your situation please call 01977 552000 for expert help and advice.