

How to Control Rodents Without Toxins

The best method of rodent control is prevention.

Keep in mind that even lethal methods will only work if all the other steps outlined below are taken and maintained.

Rodents tend to set up camp in our homes when food and space are made available to them.

Remove potential rodent homes like yard debris, trash, construction waste, etc. De-clutter outbuildings of nesting materials like paper or fabric. Keep garbage lids closed and sealed.

Eliminate food sources. Use collars and wrap stems of targeted plants with Tanglefoot. Keep bulk food, seed, and dry pet food in metal cans with secure lids. Pick up fallen fruit. Turn in compost deeper. If you have mice or rats, discontinue bird feeder use, or move it inside at night along with any uneaten pet food. Maintain stove tops clean and free of food scraps.

Exclude rodents from your home. Seal openings 1/2 inch or larger around the outside of your house with metal, concrete, or Stuf-fit Copper Mesh Wool, which can be found online or at hardware stores.

Exclude rodents from your garden beds. Install wire barriers to protect vulnerable plants and turf. For gophers use two-pronged pincher traps, box traps and black hole traps in the burrows.

Use snap traps, electric traps, cinch traps, scissor traps, harpoon traps, choker loop traps or catch-and-release traps as a safe and sanitary solution.

Include natural rodent predators in your solution. A family of owls can consume 3,000 rodents during the nesting season. Erect an owl box if you and your neighbors are not using rat poisons. A single fox supplements its diet with about 5,000 mice a year.



THERE IS NO SAFE RAT POISON!

Rodenticide poisoning unintentionally kills the very animals nature has provided to keep rodent populations in check. Depending on the product's active ingredient, some baits can pose a higher risk to specific animals. More info at <http://saferodentcontrol.org>



Support a rodenticide free Salmon River!

Don't use rodent poisons!
They kill more than rodents.

See inside for alternatives and safe ways to dispose of the hazardous waste.

Do your own research by looking up the Material Data Sheets for the active ingredient in any pesticide or rodenticide you might be inclined to use. Throughout California, the use of poison baits such as d-Con, are responsible for killing wild animals and pets. This is because **pets**, as well as predatory or scavenging birds and mammals including owls, eagles, hawks, falcons, and vultures, raccoons, foxes, skunks, ringtails, minks, bobcats and fishers would eat poisoned rodents and so are also be poisoned.



Hawk killed by rodenticides in its system.

Obvious symptoms of rodenticide poisoning are hair loss, bleeding from the eyes and nose, lethargy and anemia.

Rodenticides can be counterproductive to rodent control by poisoning, harming, and killing natural predators that help regulate rodent populations throughout California.



Owl killed by rodenticide.

D-Con and many other over-the-counter rodent control poisons, contain anticoagulant rodenticides that are highly toxic and often require only a single dose to kill the predators who have eaten the poisoned rodents. Animals that ingest them die from internal bleeding several days after ingesting the material. During that time the rodent may continue to ingest more poison. Studies in California have found rodenticides in over 75% of animals tested. These rodenticides lead to direct mortality for natural predators.



A rat provides a good meal provided it's a safe rat, not poisoned.
Photo by Beth Bergman.



If you see a mangy-looking animal, it could very well be a result of eating poisoned mice or rats.
Bobcat with lethal mange caused by blood thinning rodent poison.

Eagle killed by rodenticide.

All animal photos unless otherwise noted are by Alison Hermance of WildCare at www.discoverwildcare.org

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RECOMMENDED

- Seal Up Holes and Gaps
- Do Away with Nesting Sites
- Securely Store Food
- Use Electronic or Snap Traps

USE WITH CAUTION

- Live Traps + Glue Traps

These can catch birds, lizards and other small things. Consider this when placing out the trap.

DO NOT USE

- Any Rodenticide Bait Stations
- Any Anticoagulant Rodenticides.

Read the labels!

difethialone, brodifacoum (the two worst), chlorophacinone, diphacinone, difenacoum, and bromadiolone - lethal to hawks, owls, foxes, cats, dogs and other rodent eaters.



YOU CAN'T EVEN THROW THIS STUFF IN THE TRASH SAFELY!

Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) are toxic substances used around the home like garden chemicals, chemical cleaning products and batteries. These wastes must be disposed of in such a way that they don't find their way into our soil and water.

Salmon River Restoration Council wants to make it easier for you by collecting household batteries at the Watershed Center in Sawyers Bar. **We will also collect and dispose of your old poison baits you have wisely chosen to not use.**

Bring them by the Watershed Center today!

HHW collection events have been held in the past, and future events will occur based on funding. The Salmon River Restoration Council will post notices. For more information about HHW events - Siskiyou County Dept. of Public Works in Yreka, (530)842-8272.

