

# Rat Poison KILLS More Than Rats!



Joe Galkowski

Rat poison kills more than rats! Poisoned rats are weakened and come out of the poison bait boxes (or their burrows, once poisoned) looking for water. When predators such as owls, hawks, foxes, or even cats and dogs eat these poisoned rats, they too can be poisoned.



## ARE YOU POISONING WILDLIFE AND PETS?

Every day, wildlife and pets are in danger of being poisoned when homeowners, businesses or exterminators choose to use anticoagulant rodenticides, also known as rat poison, to control rodents.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT RAT POISON

Despite the claims of the pest control industry, there is no such thing as a "safe" rat poison. Dozens of scientific studies have found rat poisons in a wide variety of wildlife, including owls. Rat poison also kills pet dogs and cats. Rat poison leads to a painful death for all animals who are exposed to it, whether they consume the poison directly or eat the flesh of a poisoned animal.

## DEATH BY POISON

Rat poison is often used in bait stations, those shoebox size black boxes you see around buildings and dumpsters, but they do not die inside the stations. After eating the bait, rats and mice go back into the wild and can take more than a week to die. Weakened from internal bleeding, poisoned rodents are a toxic ticking time bomb for any animal who preys on them. No matter who uses it – professionals or homeowners – all types of rodent poison can sicken and kill wildlife and pets.



photo: Linda M. Schocken



photo: Fred Brisaard



photo: Mark J. Schocken

## NATURE'S PEST CONTROL

Rats, mice, and small mammals play a critical role in the ecosystem as food for many animals and as seed dispersers for trees and plants. Using poison to kill rodents has the long-term effect of INCREASING the rodent population since the poison kills off the rodents' natural predators, such as owls, allowing the rodents to breed unchecked.

By using safer rodenticides and preventative measures, we can keep rodents out of our homes and businesses, protect our pets, and keep the rodents in the wild where they belong.

## DO/USE THESE THINGS

- Keep trash bins tightly closed.
- Clean up refuse.
- Remove pet food.
- Clean up spilled bird food and fruit.
- Seal cracks and crevices leading into your home. Use ¼-inch metal mesh, not chicken wire, to block entry points.
- Trim foliage and tree limbs at least 2 feet away from sides and roofs of houses.
- Use snap traps or electronic zappers to catch any rodents remaining indoors.
- Attract owls to your property with a nest box. A single owl can catch 1,400 rodents a year.
- If you need to hire a professional, only hire exterminators who do not use anticoagulant rodenticides and who use and are trained in integrated pest management. IPM works to permanently exclude rats by rodent proofing your home.

## DON'T DO/USE THESE THINGS

- Leave trash outside the container.
- Throw trash and garbage on the ground.
- Leave uneaten pet food outside.
- Leave spilled bird seed and fruit.
- Neglect the preventative actions needed to ensure rats do not have access to your building.
- Let plants grow close to your building.
- NEVER use glue or sticky traps – they kill songbirds and other non-target wildlife.
- Neglect the natural prey/predator interaction and poison our owls.
- Hire a professional without this knowledge and these qualifications.

## SAFER PRODUCTS

Bromethalin: Examples - Fastrac, Assault  
Cholecalciferol: Example - Terad3

## UNSAFE PRODUCTS

Brodifacoum: Example - d-Con  
Bromadiolone: Example - Contrac  
Chlorophacinone: Example - Ratol  
Difenacoum: Example - Di-Kill Rat Bait  
Difethialone: Example - First Strike  
Diphacinone: Example - TomCat