

Facts on Dangers of Rodenticides (Rat Poison)

Although pest control companies might tell you rat poison is “safe,” ALL rodenticides are toxic to wildlife, pets, and the environment in general.



Look at the faces of some of the animals killed by secondary rodenticide poisoning: a female coyote in the prime of life; a father great horned owl in Tucson, Arizona; a raven, perhaps one of the two recently found dead at our stables; Vicolo, a beloved pet cat.

The wildlife that we love—including bobcats, coyotes, hawks, owls, ravens, badgers, and snakes—can die of secondary rodenticide poisoning if they eat a poisoned rodent.

Slow-moving dying rodents can get into your dog’s fenced yard, your cat’s catio, or even inside your house. Many people have lost beloved pets. Dogs can bite into bait boxes and ingest life-threatening poison.

Bait boxes with glue traps inside rip off the animal’s skin. Snakes can follow a rodent inside and these helpful rodent control allies will die an excruciating death.

The best method of rodent control is **exclusion** from your home, shed, garage, car, grill, swamp cooler, and air conditioning condenser. Use ¼ inch or less metal mesh hardware cloth and grade 3 steel wool (rodents sometimes use the finer grades for their nests). A brush on the bottom and sides of your garage door blocks rodents from entry. Many people have found that spray repellents and plug-in ultrasonic repelling devices don’t work, and the loud beep of audible sonic devices seems to annoy the neighbors but not the rodents.

You can **live trap** using metal boxes with clear tops to lure in multiple mice with bait of peanut butter, bird seed, or kibble. Traps must be checked every morning so the mice don’t die of dehydration, and so that a snake doesn’t follow them in and get trapped. Release mice at least 3 miles away so they don’t follow a scent trail back. If you must use lethal means, electronic zapper traps are the most humane and instant method.

The above information is supported by articles from *Audubon* magazine, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Safe Rodent Control Resource Center.