



# PEST CONTROL FACTS - RODENTS

At AAA in the control of rodents, we use second-generation anticoagulants (SGARs). They are an efficient and practical solution to rodent infestations in many urban and rural situations, bringing substantial benefits in food hygiene, public health and animal husbandry. If thoroughly and effectively applied, will permit the continued use of anticoagulants with the minimum adverse impacts on non-targets.

We support The Campaign for responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) who have been given the task of developing the UK SGAR Stewardship Regime, with assistance from a wide range of stakeholder organisations, and will co-ordinate implementation. The Regime is intended to provide assurance to the Health and Safety Executive, the government body responsible for regulation of rodenticides

**[AAAPESTCONTROLSERVICES.CO.UK](http://AAAPESTCONTROLSERVICES.CO.UK)**  
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# PEST CONTROL - RODENTS

## INFESTATIONS

Rodents pose a threat to people's health and to health and hygiene in animal husbandry. They may cause significant damage to commodities, especially stored food and animal feeds, and to the fabric of buildings and infrastructure, such as electrical cables, drains and sewers. In particular, rodents pose a risk to food safety and food hygiene because they are attracted to areas where food is stored, prepared and sold and because many food-borne pathogens are carried by rodents and transmitted to humans, pets and to farm livestock.

## TREATMENT & PROOFING

Consider all available controls - not just the use of rodenticides - including simple measures such as clearing away rubbish and proofing of buildings. It is important that following the application of measures to reduce rodent numbers you should consider ways of improving environmental management at the site. This should provide effective long-term control of rodent infestations. You should concentrate particularly on improving hygiene and proofing, maintenance and repair of buildings.

Although they may be costly and require frequent maintenance, measures to prevent the ingress of rodents into buildings provide a long-term solution to rodent problems and are usually without adverse impacts.

Operations intended to prevent rodent access to foodstuffs, such as the use of rodent-proof bins and close-fitting doors, are also likely to be substantially free from non-target impacts. In order to deter rodent infestations, sites should be cleared of all debris, rubbish, old machinery and equipment, unwanted stores of straw and hay, etc. Vegetation should be cleared around buildings to provide open perimeter and immediate surroundings, so that natural predators can take rodents.

Trapping has several advantages. Any animals taken can be removed from the site and obviously there are no chemical residues. However, if not done properly trapping may have a detrimental impact on non-target animals.

Routine inspections and repair to identified faults or damage should be implemented. In most situations it is best to control the rodent infestation before carrying out any proofing work. Although there may be some additional cost, the improvements will benefit the rodent control and prevention programme in the long term.

Metal baffles around services such as cables and pipes and kick plates on the lower edges of doors will prevent them being gnawed by rodents. Door access that is only required occasionally can be temporarily proofed by adding a concrete fillet or wire mesh to the vulnerable ground level sections. Depending on the circumstances, drainage pipes or gullies should be proofed by fitting grilles, flaps, crushed wire mesh or other suitable materials.

A close-up photograph of a rodent's face, showing its eye, ear, and whiskers. The rodent is looking towards the right. The background is a solid blue color.

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## PUTTING PLANS IN PLACE

In commercial premises, public buildings or on agricultural land, it is important to establish who to report to on site and if there are parts of the site where pest control technicians may have restricted/no access. If the site has been treated before, it is good practice to review the previous strategies, advice and potential problems associated with the site before visiting. It is important to involve any persons responsible for the site when considering the range of rodent control measures, you intend to adopt. If previous advice has not been followed, then this will need to be revisited, underlining the importance of environmental management in the successful control of rodent populations.

### Areas of Use

“Indoors” is defined as:

Situations where the bait is placed within a building or other enclosed structure and where the target is living or feeding predominantly within that building or structure; and behind closed doors. If rodents living outside a building can move freely to where the bait is laid within the building, then products restricted to use indoors should NOT be used. Open barns or buildings and tamper-resistant bait stations placed in open areas are not classified as indoors. However, sewers or closed drains are considered to be ‘indoors situations’.

“Open areas” is a new term without a concise definition.

As above, European Commission documents describe uses “around farmland, parks and golf courses” as typical of open area applications. The term is also used when “rodenticides are used to reduce impacts on game rearing or outside (i.e. in field) food stores (potato/sugar beet clamps)”. An open area is therefore one that fits neither of the two preceding definitions and is an urban, suburban or rural space that is not directly associated with a building.

“Outdoors” was used in the UK as a regulatory term for places where baits could be applied that were not restricted to “indoors” (see above definition) but is no longer used on rodenticide labels. Continued use may cause confusion, especially if it is employed in association with the term ‘in and around buildings’, from which it differs significantly.

## SITE SURVEYS

You should carry out a site survey to establish the type, level and extent of the infestation. The survey will help you to identify important factors (e.g. the degree of public access to the site; the presence of children and non-target animals, such as pets, farm livestock and wildlife) that will influence your choice of control strategies for that site.

During the survey, try to establish the rodents' food and water sources. Reducing the availability of alternative food and water at the start of the treatment, or shortly afterwards, can encourage rodents to feed on your bait. Where there are rats present you should note obvious defects such as broken pipes, defective sewer chamber covers, bad brickwork, half channels inside brickwork, stoppers missing from the rodding eye or surface water gullies and bring them to the attention of the responsible person, where applicable.

Where there is an obvious risk that may allow rat invasion from neighbouring properties, it is good practice to tell the responsible person of the risk that this may pose and where appropriate report it to the local authority, who may be able to take appropriate action.

### **COSHH assessment**

#### **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002**

(the COSHH assessment) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require assessments are carried out to identify any risks to operators and others who may be affected by treatments involving hazardous substances.

There is a requirement to record the findings of the assessment unless they are so simple that they can be easily recalled and the conclusions explained at any time. However, small companies with fewer than five employees are not required to keep a written record, although it is good practice to do so. The COSHH assessment will help ensure that any rodenticide product you select, and its method of application, will result in effective pest control with least risk to yourself and anyone else who may come into contact with the rodenticide.

### **Environmental risk assessment**

It is good practice to conduct an environmental risk assessment when a risk to the environment has been identified during the site survey.

This assessment will consider the following:

- which protected species may be present in or near the treatment site,
- what risks to non-target species have been identified,
- summarise steps taken to prevent, or control, exposure of wildlife & environment
- what are the facilities for the safe disposal of dead rodents and rodenticides,
- what follow up measures are required,

It is good practice to record this assessment in writing.

## GUIDANCE FOR TREATMENT

### Record

Make a written record of where you have placed the bait, which rodenticide was used and how much bait has been laid. For complex and/or large sites ask the client for a site map or if not available make one yourself. Record the positions where bait has been laid. Inform employees and others with regular access to the site that a rodenticide treatment is in place and of the products involved and any precautionary actions they should take.

### Monitoring

If you have decided that the application of a rodenticide is needed and the treatment phase is underway, it is important to monitor it regularly to track its progress.

During revisits you should:

- search for, remove and safely dispose of any carcasses,
- make sure there is enough bait available,
- check that the baiting points remain secure,
- check for evidence of non-target mice/voles gaining access to baits,
- deal with spillages or other problems as they occur, and
- observe progress of the treatment.

Effective monitoring needs a reliable recording system which will enable you to identify problems as the treatment progresses. This includes, for example, a reduction in efficacy of a usually effective rodenticide. Such observations should prompt a review of your treatment strategy.

### Replenishing bait

Once laid, baits should be inspected frequently and where bait has been eaten, it should be replenished as necessary according to the schedule on the product label. Determine how frequently you need to inspect baits from the label instructions and the characteristics of the infestation. As a general guide, baits should be inspected and replenished (if necessary) no later than seven days after they were first laid and at least fortnightly thereafter.

More frequent visits will be required at sites with larger infestations, where burrow baiting has been used and where there are specific risks of bait disturbance and exposure to humans and non-target animals.



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## FURTHER ADVICE

You can get further advice on dealing with rodent infestations from rodenticide manufacturers and distributors and also from:

- **British Pest Control Association (BPCA)**

Tel: 01332 294288

Website: <http://www.bpca.org.uk>

- **National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA)**

Tel: 01773 717 716

Website: <http://www.npta.org.uk>

- **Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)**

Tel: 020 7928 6006

Website: <http://www.cieh.org>

- **Environment Agency (EA)**

Tel: 03708 506 506

Website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)

- **Natural England (NE)**

Tel: 0845 600 3078

Web: [www.naturalengland.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/default.aspx)

- **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)**

Tel: 0345 9335577

Website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs)

**For guidance on the legislation, consult the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)**

Infoline: 03000 031747

Website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/index.html>

**For guidance on environmental risk assessment, go to:**

<http://www.thinkwildlife.org/?wpdmact=process&did=OC5ob3RsaW5r>