

OH RATS!

KEEP RODENTS OUT OF THE HOME AND KIDS, PETS AND WILDLIFE SAFE.



Poison baits are often flavored or scented like food. This poses life-threatening risks to children if they are accidentally consumed. Pets and wildlife, such as owls, hawks and bobcats, are also sickened and often die when they feed directly on the bait, or when they receive secondary poisoning by eating a poisoned rodent.

Use these safer approaches recommended by professionals:

- 1. REMOVE RODENT SHELTER, FOOD AND WATER.** Keep food in the refrigerator or in puncture-proof containers with tight-fitting lids. Do not leave pet food out overnight. Remove rodent habitat like ivy and debris, and store lumber away from structures at least 18 inches above the ground. Keep vegetation at least three feet away from buildings. Clean up over-ripe fruit off the ground.
- 2. BLOCK POINTS OF ENTRY.** Sprinkle baby powder or flour along suspected areas to detect rodent tracks. Mice can squeeze through openings as small as a pencil diameter. Stuff scouring pads and copper mesh into large gaps and seal holes with cement, spackle or caulk. Use door sweeps and weather stripping for doors and windows.
- 3. IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY,** use snap traps properly-sized for the rodent problem you have. Bait with peanut butter and place traps in active rodent areas with the trigger facing the wall and out-of-reach from kids, pets and wildlife. **Never use glueboards.** They are inhumane, can easily harm other animals, and may result in having to address a still-living but trapped animal.
- 4. SECURE DEAD RODENTS, NESTS AND DROPPINGS IN A SEALED PLASTIC BAG AND DISPOSE IN THE OUTDOOR TRASH.** Wear rubber gloves and wipe all surfaces with hydrogen peroxide or other disinfectant.
- 5. NEED TO HIRE A PROFESSIONAL?** Visit ourwaterourworld.org and click on “Pest Control Operators” to find companies that use least-toxic rodent control, or use our free **Ask Our Expert** service to speak with a professional.

For more information about less toxic pest control, visit ourwaterourworld.org.

For more information about Palo Alto’s Watershed Protection Programs visit cleanbay.org or call 650.329.2122.

