

# OH RATS!

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



Rodent infestations are messy, but poison baits—which are often flavored or scented like food—pose threats to children and pets when accidentally consumed. Wildlife and pets are at additional risk for poisoning when they feed on rodents killed by baits. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife also discourages use of rodent baits which harm or kill countless owls, hawks, bobcats and other animals every year.

### Use these safer approaches recommended by professionals:

- 1. REMOVE SOURCES OF 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” above the ground. Keep vegetation at least three feet away from buildings. Clean up over-ripe fruit off the ground.
- 2. FIND AND BLOCK THE POINT OF ENTRY.** Sprinkle baby powder or flour lightly 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 TRAPS ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY,** use snap traps properly-sized for either rats or mice, depending on which rodent problem you have. Bait traps with peanut butter and place them where you have seen rodent activity with the trap trigger facing the wall and out-of-reach to 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 a hydrogen peroxide-containing disinfectant.
- 5. NEED TO HIRE A PEST MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL?** Visit [ourwaterourworld.org](http://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 rodent identification  
and control, visit [ourwaterourworld.org](http://ourwaterourworld.org).

For more information about Palo Alto’s Watershed  
Protection Programs visit [cleanbay.org](http://cleanbay.org) or call 650.329.2122.

