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## THE SAFE USE OF RODENTICIDES

Rodenticide baits are an extremely effective way to control rodents. Infestations need to be controlled to reduce the risk from disease and damage to property.

It is important that such products are used correctly and care taken to prevent children, pets and wildlife from gaining access to the baits.

#### 1. Prevention is better than the cure

Your primary aim should be to avoid the problem. Hygiene and prevention are key factors in satisfactory rodent control. Simple measures such as clearing away rubbish, reducing potential food sources and rodent proofing of buildings can be effective in stopping the problem before it occurs. Around the home, fill holes and gaps greater than 6 mm in diameter around plumbing fitting/fixtures in the kitchen, laundry and bathroom. Weather-strips should be applied under doors



The following guidelines will assist users of rodent baits to control rodent infestations in the most safe and effective manner.

This information does not replace the product label directions.

BEFORE USING ANY RODENTICIDE, PLEASE READ THE PRODUCT LABEL AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS.

### 2. Identify the Pest

Control tactics differ slightly for rats and mice - hence once the rodent problem is established it is important to identify the pest.

Rodent droppings are often the best identification:

- **Mouse** droppings are small, rod shaped, usually 3 to 6 mm long.
- Rat droppings are usually either spindle or capsule shaped and are much larger at 12 to 20 mm.



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## 3. Site Survey

Before beginning a baiting programme it is useful to note such points as

- Level and extent of infestation
- Potential risk factors such as presence of children, livestock, pets and wildlife.

### 4. Bait Selection

The two most common bait types are pellets and wax blocks. Pellets are highly attractive to rodents and may be used in a variety of situations. Wax blocks are more durable and can be used in moist areas. Many wax block products can be fixed in position. They are suited for use in areas where it is important that the bait is not scattered by rodent activity.



TALON Pellets



TALON Wax Blocks

## 5. Baiting Programme

#### **Bait Placement**

Bait should be placed in areas of rodent activity.

- **Rats** use 1 to 3 blocks at intervals of 5 to 9 metres in infested intervals.
- **Mice** use single blocks positioned closer together; at 2 to 3 m intervals.

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# DO NOT PLACE BAITS IN AREAS WHERE CHILDREN, PETS, OTHER ANIMALS OR BIRDS CAN REACH IT.

Bait should be placed in areas of rodent activity.

This can be achieved by placing baits:

- in inaccessible areas or
- in a tamper resistant rodent bait station or
- under sheets of corrugated iron or
- inside a length of pipe (secured in position) or beneath timber or furniture.

# THE PLACEMENT OF BAIT WITHIN A TAMPER RESISTANT BAIT STATION IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Please note that pellets and wax block baits that are not fixed in position may be moved by rodent activity. In areas where such activity could result in children or non-target animals accessing the bait, the use of a tamper evident bait station or wax blocks fixed in position is recommended.

Record both the location of the bait positions and the amount of bait used to assist with the monitoring of the baiting programme.

### **Monitoring and Bait Replenishment**

- Inspect bait positions every 1 to 2 weeks and replenish eaten bait as necessary.
- Continue baiting every 1 to 2 weeks until all feeding activity has stopped.

DO NOT REPLENISH BAIT MORE FREQUENTLY THAN ONCE PER WEEK as rodent death will occur normally 4 to 7 days after bait consumption therefore more frequent bait replenishment is not necessary.

You should endeavour to control the problem using as little bait as possible to ensure bait is not wasted and the risk of non-target exposure is minimised.

For further information please contact the Syngenta Technical Advice Line - Freecall 1800 067 108; Freefax 1800 805 871 or visit www.syngenta.com.au

In the case of an emergency - for specialised advice contact 1800 033 111 (24 hours - Orica SHE Shared Services)

