

ENVIRONMENT TOPICS

ANIMAL PEST CONTROL

ANIMAL PEST

Using Animal Pest Control Poisons

Introduction

There are a range of poisons available for animal pest control. This Environment Topic is a guide to assist you to decide which is right for your situation and problem animal pest. There are other environment topics available in this series that describe these poisons, animal pests and other control methods in more detail.

Steps to take when using poisons

After assessing whether control is necessary and other control options, there are a number of factors to consider if the decision is to use poisons.

Identify what to poison and where you intend to poison

With the exception of poisoning for rats and wasps, the use of poisons for pest control should be confined to rural areas only and to the following pests:

Possums	Rabbits
Ferrets	Weasels
Stoats	Rats

If you are laying poisons take special care to ensure that there is no risk to people, particularly children, and pets or livestock. You are legally responsible for using poisons in a manner that does not endanger the public, livestock, or non-target wildlife.

When should pest control be carried out?

See Table 1 below for the most effective times for controlling each animal pest.

Purchasing poisons

You can purchase most of the following pest control products from your local stock and station agency. Also check the Council's Subsidy programme. It provides a 60% subsidy on a range of pest control products and is administered through all Hawke's Bay branches of Farmlands Trading Ltd and through Farmgear H.B. (located at Puketapu). Or order the products directly from the manufacturers. See the Environment Topic "Subsidised Pest Control Products" for more information.

Months of the year suitable for pest control	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Possums												
Rabbits												
Ferrets												
Rats												
Stoats												
Wasps												
Weasels												

Please note that some poisons are restricted to licence holders only*

- Talon
- Pestoff
- Feratox*
- Cyanide*
- Feracol
- Pindone rabbit pellets
- Pestoff ferret paste
- Carbaryl insecticide
- Kerosine / Diesel

Which poison is the most effective for controlling your pest?

Table 2 below is a guideline on the effectiveness of a number of poisons to control animal pests.

Before applying poisons

For your own safety, and the safety of others, **FIRST READ THE LABEL** thoroughly and follow all instructions and safety guidelines.

How will you apply the poison?

Poisons can be applied on ground spits (overturned earth clods), bait bags or in bait stations. As a general rule, use only fresh poison paste or pellets, and do not apply the poisons when or where they will be exposed to wet weather. Old or wet paste or pellets are less palatable to animals and may be less toxic. For sustained pest control, it is strongly recommended that you regularly change the type of bait or poison to avoid animals becoming poison shy over time.

Further information

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has a series of Environment Topics available that describe these poisons, animal pests and other control methods in more detail.

Acknowledgements

Information supplied by Taranaki Regional Council.

For further information

For further information on animal pests or the Regional Pest Management Strategy, please contact the Biosecurity Animal Pest Officers at the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

Wairoa	06 838 8527
Napier	06 835 9200
Waipukurau	06 858 8636
TOLL FREE	0800 108 838
www.hbrc.govt.nz	

DISCLAIMER: The choice of chemical and its application [this includes method of application and rate of application] is the sole responsibility of the user. Hawke's Bay Regional Council makes no representation that the chemical will be effective in respect of any one application or a series of applications. Hawke's Bay Regional Council shall not be liable for any damages or consequential loss arising out of the choice or application of any chemical. The information contained in this Environment Topic does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products identified. The mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned. Nothing in this Environment Topic shall be construed as a supply of any goods or services for the purposes of the Consumer Guarantees Act 1993.

Poisons	Possum	Rabbit	Ferret	Rat	Stoat	Wasp	Weasel
Talon	✓						
Pestoff	✓						
Feratox	✓						
Cyanide	✓						
Feracol	✓			✓			
Pindone pellets			✓		✓		✓
Pestoff ferret paste			✓		✓		✓
Carbaryl insecticide						✓	
Kerosene Diesel						✓	

Table 2. Guideline on the effectiveness of a number of poisons to control animal pests.