



PESTICIDE ADVISORY

Due to a mild winter, Oregon is experiencing a statewide increase in rodent populations. As seed is stored and transported to warehouses, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Pesticides Program is issuing guidance on the proper use of rodenticides and emphasizing the need to follow label directions. It is important to get this information out now as issues with rodenticide usage have already been identified this year and seed is moving into storage warehouses.

Rodenticides are pesticides designed to eliminate rodents, including mice and rats. Humans, domestic animals, and wildlife may also be adversely affected by rodenticides if label instructions are not strictly followed. Pesticide product labels provide essential information for the safe and legal handling and application of these substances. This information includes application sites and rates, measures to prevent off-target movement and protect waterways, bait station requirements, mixing or dilution rates, emergency first aid procedures, and proper disposal methods for empty containers and used product. Pesticide labels are legally enforceable and include the statement, "It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." **In other words, the label is the law.**

Quick tips to keep in mind when using rodenticides:

- Always read the entire product label before purchase and use. If you choose to use rodent bait, **always follow the label, it's the law.**
- Identify your **rodent** species before selecting bait, as some products are more effective for specific species.
- Try a combination of control methods. Consider prevention, sanitation, and exclusion before using a rodenticide. Then try a **lower toxicity** product, first.
- Rodent baits can be attractive and dangerous to kids, pets, and wildlife. Always store pesticides in a cool, dry place that is not accessible to children, pets, and wildlife. Always follow the storage instructions on the product's label.
- Wear gloves when disposing of dead rodents. Secure trash cans to minimize pet or wildlife access to poisoned rodents.
- Many **rodenticide** baits can be toxic to humans, wildlife, and domestic animals if they are eaten, or if an animal eats a rodent that was recently poisoned.

If you choose to use a rodenticide, remember to read and follow the label on the product that you are using. Failure to comply with Oregon's licensing requirements, and label restrictions may result in one or more of the following actions: civil penalty, license revocation, license suspension, or refusal to issue or renew the license or certification of an applicant, licensee, or certificate holder in accordance with ORS 634.322(4).

Additional Resources

- For more information about pesticides and to search for registered pesticide products, go to <https://oda.direct/SearchRegisteredPesticides>
- For more information about ODA's Seed Program go to <https://oda.direct/Seed-Program>
- For NPIC rodenticide resources visit <https://npic.orst.edu/ingred/ptype/rodenticide.html>

If you have any questions or concerns about pesticides, please contact the ODA Pesticides Program at 503-986-4635 or pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov.