

Better choices if you need to use poison

If you do decide to use rodenticides as a last resort make sure you choose a product that is less harmful to birds, wildlife and pets.

Ensure you purchase products with the active poison ingredients **sodium chloride, warfarin, coumatetralyl, or diphacinone**. Purchase baits that come in block form and ensure they are used in tamper-proof bait stations. Avoid bait pellets or pastes as these can easily be eaten by other animals. Always immediately dispose of any rodent carcasses to prevent harm of pets or wildlife and remember poisoned rodents can remain alive and active for days, so using rodenticides indoors won't prevent them escaping and posing a risk to other animals.

The following products don't contain SGARs and are commonly available in supermarkets and hardware shops:

- Ratsak Naturals (a human and pet safe bait option)
- Bayer Racumin Rat and Mouse Paste
- Yates RATSAK Double Strength Bait Station



Birds of prey help keep pest rodent numbers down naturally.

Do not use SGAR products

Packaging for SGARs can be unclear, but as a safe bet avoid products with the ingredients **brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, difenacoum or flocoumafen**. These include products like Talon, Fast Action RatSak and The Big Cheese Fast Action brands.

For a more comprehensive list of product names and information about how you can help get these poisons off the shelves, **scan this QR code:**



For more information about other products and our campaign go to actforbirds.org or scan this QR code.

IMAGES: GREY BUTCHERBIRD BY GAIL BEHSMAN, BOOBOOK BY ANDREW SILCOCKS, NANKEEN KESTREL BY HEATHER THORNING

Australia's voice for birds since 1901

BirdLife Australia is dedicated to achieving outstanding conservation results for our native birds and their habitats. With our specialised knowledge and the commitment of an Australia-wide network of volunteers and supporters, we are creating a bright future for Australia's birds.

Add your voice

join us

volunteer

donate

birdlife.org.au

BirdLife Australia
Suite 2-05, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053
T 03 9347 0757 | conservation@birdlife.org.au

ABN 75 149 124 774

Bird-friendly rodent control for gardeners

Making better choices in our homes



Standing together to stop extinctions


birdlife
AUSTRALIA

Visits from unwelcome pests

When rats or mice show up uninvited, we often reach straight for the rodent bait. But while we do our best to ensure baits are placed out of the reach of children, pets, and other animals, we rarely think about where rodents go after they've eaten them.

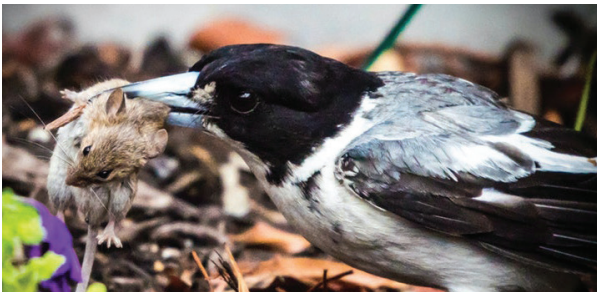
Using rodent baits around our houses and gardens can have a serious impact on the native wildlife and pets around us.

Make your garden bird-friendly (not rat-friendly!)

Making your house and garden less enticing for rodents to feed, shelter, and nest in is a great way to keep your local native wildlife safe.

Try:

- Storing excess pet food away from rodents
- Rodent-proofing chicken pens and aviaries
- Sealing potential access points, such as roof and wall cavities
- Removing fallen fruit from trees, and
- Keeping your yard, sheds and garden waste clean and tidy.



SGARs can kill birds or animals that might eat dead or dying rodents.



Deadly impacts for our pets and local wildlife

Encouraging native predators to your garden

Having healthy populations of birds of prey helps keep rodent numbers down naturally, another reason to avoid rodenticides.

Encourage birds in your backyard, by:

- Planting owl-friendly native plants and trees with a good canopy cover (and removing rat-friendly plants like palm trees)
- Installing appropriately designed nest boxes for owls to breed in
- Using snap traps instead of rodent baits. Snap traps are the most humane method of lethal rodent control, but make sure you set them up where pets and children can't access them

What about my compost heap?

Rodent proof your compost bin:

- Install vermin mesh or chicken wire on the base
- Keep your compost heap moist and turn it over often, so that it breaks down faster – big chunks on the top are attractive to rats!

Alternatives to harmful rat and mouse poisons

Snap traps are one of the most humane methods of rodent control, but make sure you set them up where pets and children can't access them. The most effective spots to place snap traps are amongst high-activity areas like dark corners, along walls, behind appliances and objects, and all areas where droppings are evident.

There are also a range of other non-poison traps on shelves to investigate.



Ensure you immediately dispose of any rodent carcasses to prevent harm to pets or wildlife.