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## Visits from unwelcome pests

When rats or mice show up uninvited, we often reach straight for the rodent bait. But how we manage rodent infestations can have deadly impacts for our local wildlife.

As an Owl Friendly City, we're encouraging our community to give a hoot and consider owl-friendly rodent control.

**Help keep our local owl populations safe by avoiding *Second-generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs)*.**

SGARs are the most-deadly rodent poisons and are easily purchased from store shelves. These products can kill not only the rats and mice they are targeting, but any bird or animal that might eat a dead or dying rodent. Slow-moving poisoned rodents can take several days to die – making them easy prey for other animals.



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**As required under the Food Safety Standards, prevent rodents from accessing your establishment or any food and food waste.**

Block entry routes by installing:

- Mesh screens on all doors and windows in the kitchen and surrounding areas
- Self-closing doors or windows
- Metal covers over pipes and drains

Cut off access to food by:

- Removing rubbish from the building frequently
- Ensuring rubbish bins are fully covered and pest-proof
- Regularly cleaning and sanitising all bins
- Storing food at least 15cm off the floor and 5cm away from the wall
- Storing food in tightly sealed containers made of food-grade plastic, glass or stainless steel

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*Content courtesy of BirdLife Australia and Australian Institute of Food Safety. Images from BirdLife Australia and Unsplash.*

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# Keep our Owls safe

A guide for City of Fremantle

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## Use additional methods to control rodents

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.

This will add to your control options but using rodent poison (rodenticide) will generally be an essential component of your pest control program.

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## Better choices of poison

Choose rodenticides that are less harmful to birds, wildlife and pets.

Your pest control consultant should be able to advise you on the most appropriate, environmentally safe active poison ingredients such as 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 RATSAC Double Strength Bait Station

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## 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
- The Big Cheese Fast Action brands

Key problems with SGARs

1. SGARs don't kill instantly; poisoned rodents spread the threat around
2. Rodents remain contaminated for many months, even after they die
3. Any animal that eats rodents is at risk – this includes owls and birds of prey, native mammals like quolls, reptiles like snakes and goannas, and even pet cats and dogs

*Scan the QR for more information on what to buy and what to avoid.*

