

Poison in the outdoors

Different poisons, such as Brodifacoum and 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate), are used to control pests like rats and possums, and protect our native birds and plants. You'll find it in the bush, and our parks and reserves. Know how to recognise these poisons to keep yourself, your whānau and pets safe from harm.

Call 111 in an emergency.

Call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for medical advice.

Call the National Poisons Centre on 0800 764 766 for poisons advice

How to recognise poison baits

- Poison is distributed using poison baits. They are usually a paste, gel or pellet and dyed a green or blue-green colour. Pellets are roughly half the size of your finger, or a bit smaller.
- Bait is contained in bait stations that are either on the ground or attached to trees.
- Some poison bait, for example 1080 pellets, are dropped from aircraft over a mapped out area, and are not put into bait stations.

Look for the signs

- Warning signs must be put up in the area where the poison has been laid.
- The sign tells you the type of poison, when it was laid, and the council or organisation responsible for laying the poison. There is also safety advice, for example, do not let dogs roam or scavenge.
- The sign is only taken down after any remaining bait or animal carcasses are no longer toxic, or when the required time limit for displaying the sign ends.



Stay out of the area

If you can, stay out of the area where poison has been laid. If you must enter the area:

- don't touch anything you think might be a poison bait
- keep a close watch on small children and warn older children of the risks
- keep dogs on a leash, don't let them roam, and don't let them eat bait or carcasses.

If you think your dog has been poisoned

- Call the vet immediately and tell them your pet may have eaten poison.
- Don't wait for symptoms to appear.