

Poison for pests and rodents

You may choose to use poison to kill rats and mice and other rodents around your home. These poisons come with risks. Learn how to keep yourself, pets and everyone around you safe.

Using poison around your home

Before you begin

- Only buy what you need.
- Put on gloves before you open the packaging.
- Read the label and follow the instructions.
- Using a bait station is recommended. The bait station should have a floor to keep the poison contained in one place.
- If the poison does not come with its own container or bait station, find a suitable container to use that is strong and sturdy. Never use food or drink containers.
- Make sure the poison is on a flat surface and keep it away from water, food or pet food.

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

Laying out the poison

- Choose a place that babies, children and pets can't get to or reach.
- Follow the instructions on the label.
- Wear gloves, and check the label to see if you should wear anything else to protect yourself, such as goggles or long-sleeved clothes to cover your skin.
- Check again that children and pets can't get to it.
- Keep away from water, food or pet food.
- Clear up any spilled poison immediately, and wear gloves.
- Put away left over poison as soon as you have finished. Store it away safely.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and any parts of your skin that may have been exposed.

Check for dead rodents

- Check for dead rodents every day.
- Follow the instructions to safely dispose of the bodies. They may have germs and have poison in them.
- Regularly check the poison you have laid out. Make sure it stays out of reach of children and babies, and it is inside its container. Watch your pets.

Safely storing poison

- Store poison high up in a locked cupboard or cabinet.
- Keep poisons in their original bottles or boxes. This is really important – it will make sure you have all the safety information on the label. Never put poisons in food or drink containers.
- Seal all containers properly before you put them away and wipe up any spills.
- Keep well away from water, food or pet food.

Other ways to control rodents and pests

Before you use poison, look at other ways to control rats, mice, and other pests from getting in to your home.

- Seal gaps or holes inside and outside your house. You can often patch large holes with wood or stuff small holes with steel wool or tinfoil.
- Remove rodent nesting sites from your property, including leaf piles and deep mulch.
- Check if there are food or water sources in or near your house. Rubbish bins can be attractive to rats and mice, so make sure bins have a tight-fitting lid. Turn over compost piles to cover up new food scraps.
- If it is more severe, you can try a more hands-on method or you could use a professional pest removal company.
- Live traps – they don't kill rats and mice, so before you use them think about what you would do with the trapped animal.
- Lethal traps – they are designed to kill rats and mice. Be careful to put them in places where children or pets can't get to them.
- Professional pest removal – search online to find a pest removal company in your area. They may use poison or traps, or a combination of the two.



Try using traps to control rodents