

- Compost and food should be in a rodent-proof container
- All alternative food should be removed from your garden (e.g. pick up fallen fruit)
- A cluttered house/garden offers several hiding places for rodents

Rodenticide baits are made to attract rodents, but other animals such as pets and wildlife can eat it as well.

Primary poisoning

When an animal eats the bait directly

Secondary poisoning

When an animal eats poisoned prey (alive or dead)
Anticoagulant residues can remain in liver tissue for many weeks, so a predator that eats many poisoned rodents may build up a toxic dose

Anticoagulant : prevents normal blood clotting by blocking the enzyme that makes vitamin K, the agent that keeps the blood flowing. There are 2 classes of anticoagulant

- **First generation :** require rodents to consume the bait for several consecutive feedings for delivery of a lethal dose. E.G Coumatetralyl (Couma)
- **Second generation :** Lethal dose can be ingested in a single feeding. Toxicant persists longer in body tissues, meaning a greater risk of secondary poisoning to an animal eating a sick or dead rodent E.G Bromadiolone (Surefire - green container) / Brodifacoum (Surefire - red container / Talon) / Difenacoum (Surefire difenate pink-container)

Toxicant used (brand)	2nd poisoning mammal's risk	2nd poisoning bird's risk	Bait's generation
Cholecalciferol (D Block Extreme)	Low	Low	X
Coumatetralyl (Couma)	Medium	Low	First
Difenacoum (Surefire difenate (pink))	Medium	Low	Second
Bromadiolone (Surefire (green))	High	Moderate	Second
Brodifacoum (Surfire (red) / Talon)	Very High	High	Second

The others : different mechanisms exists such as the one based on vitamin D. Cholecalciferol (the biologically active form of vitamin D) is nontoxic in small amounts but massive single dose can prove toxic.

How to avoid bait resistance / bait shyness

Check bait stations on a regular basis and remove any old or moldy baits
Alternate toxicants (e.g. when a bucket is finished buy another kind)
If possible, change enclosed containers (e.g. bait station) for hand broadcast sometimes.

When and where to bait :

- Avoid using baits during morepork breeding season or consider one with low risk of secondary poisoning
- Baiting when alternative food is scarce (e.g. winter) improves the chance of rodents taking the baits
- Mount baits / or bait stations in elevated positions as well as on the ground, as rodents spend a lot of time in trees
- Bury any dead rodents you find. They will usually die underground, but not always.

