

# Please stop poisoning our food !

## Rat poison doesn't just kill rats, but affects wildlife, humans, pets and the environment



Poisons not only kill rats and mice, but can kill wildlife that eat those animals, including owls, hawks, bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, other wildlife, and even domestic pets.

Rodenticides used alone or in bait boxes, herbicides, pesticides and other toxins not only directly harm wildlife, but they also build up in smaller prey and soil, and contaminate groundwater. Toxins are consumed by the rodents and insects, who are then consumed by larger predators. This causes the toxins to be transferred from prey to predator and accumulate in large amounts in animals higher up the food chain. Top predators like owls, hawks, coyotes and bobcats can become sick and even die from continued toxin exposure through the food chain.

Not only can these poisons be directly toxic leading to bleeding, seizures and death, but lower levels can also impair the immune system, causing coyotes, bobcats, eagles, owls and other wildlife to be more susceptible to diseases like mange.

**Alternatives to using pesticides** include planting “trap crops,” crops planted specifically to attract insects to deter them from other plants, removing insects manually with gloves, and excluding insects and spiders through the use of door thresholds, weather stripping and roof vents.

**Alternatives to herbicides** include hand pulling weeds when ground is moist, suppressing weeds with mulches free of PVCs (polyvinyl chloride), and using netted or plastic barriers under unplanted landscaping materials such as pebbles, mulch, or stone.

**Instead of rodenticides,** sprinkle cinnamon in areas they frequent most. Place peppermint oil-soaked cotton balls and rags throughout infested areas (you will need to re-soak frequently). Deny mice and rats access to food in your home by sealing holes and cracks that are larger than 1/4-inch wide using hardware cloth, and store all food in airtight, rodent-proof containers. Don't leave out pet food and clean spilled birdseed.

**Instead of strychnine and gas poisons,** use heavy wire (or hardware cloth) to line holes for planting and to protect gardens. Sprinkle baby powder around areas rodents and rabbits frequent. Remember, desert holes made by rodents keep rain water from running off and provide moisture for plants and trees.

