

Pest Management Industry - Code of Practice Humane Use of Rodent Glue Boards

In order to protect public health and within high-risk environments or for purposes of due diligence, the use of rodent glue boards remains an important last choice option when all other control methods have been considered and deemed unsuitable.

The use of rodent glue boards raises valid concerns, as rodents caught remain alive and may be caused unnecessary distress. The following principles will assist in preventing such situations and promote animal welfare:

1. Last choice option

All other options for rodent control must be considered before adopting rodent glue boards. Prior to the adoption of rodent glue boards as a method of control, written records must show that other control methods are either considered inappropriate or have failed. In some situations, where there is a live rodent trapped in a property or high risk environment, it may be appropriate for glue boards to be placed strategically to ensure immediate trapping.

2. Protect non-target species

Boards must be placed in such a manner that they do not present a hazard to non-target species.

3. Use the correct size board for the pest species

The size of board used should be consistent with the target species.

4. Written records

Records and location plans should be available on site at all times for all boards laid during any treatment, and should be maintained as necessary to ensure traceability.

5. Check boards frequently

Where rodent boards are laid these must be inspected at appropriate intervals. This will be at least once every 12 hours, including weekends and bank holidays. Records to be updated after all such inspections.

6. Despatch of trapped rodents humanely

Rodents trapped on rodent boards must be despatched quickly and humanely. This may be achieved by quick and positive dislocation of the neck or with an air powered weapon. Drowning is not an acceptable method of despatch.

7. Non-target species

In the event a non-target species should become trapped, a suitable food grade oil or similar emollient should be applied to the animal for removal.

8. Remove boards at the end of treatment

At the end of treatment all rodent boards should be accounted for, removed by the technician and the records endorsed accordingly.

9. Dispose of boards safely

Rodent boards should be disposed of with care. If it is not possible to incinerate the boards, the sticky surface should be covered to avoid the accidental trapping of non-target species or subsequent misuse.

10. Trained and competent

Technicians must be given adequate training and be competent in the effective and humane use of this technique.

Glue boards remain the responsibility of the person who originally laid them during the treatment.