



NEW 20KG SACKS

With the recent news of 20kg sacks being withdrawn from the market PelGar are pleased to announce their new 20kg pack format, now available across the PelGar range from Edialux Professional Products.

When PelGar's regulatory team discovered the new legislation limiting loose baits to a maximum pack size of 10kg, to avoid the need for decanting larger quantities, they undertook measures to apply to HSE for some additional pack formats which would allow for the continued sale of their popular 20kg packs. The HSE has since granted these amendments to PelGar and the products are now available to all certified users. 'The continued sale of PelGar's products in 20kg packs will allow pest controllers to capitalise on economies of scale rather than having to absorb or pass on the increases in the relative price of their baits' comments PelGar's UK Business Manager Nic Blaszkowicz. The new formats approved by HSE for PelGar International contain two 10kg inner packs in a 20kg sack or tub.



Leading the
way in British
pest control

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Use rodenticides safely. Always read the label and product information before use. Roban contains 0.005%w/w difenacoum. Rodex contains 0.005%w/w bromadiolone. Vertox contains 0.005%w/w brodifacoum.



Our reporter, Imogen Levenson from Tufnell Park Pest Control

Lead conservator Liz Rose, left, shows visitors the work being done to repair a 17th century flag used by the East India Regiment

Conservation at first hand

Imogen Levenson, of north London-based Tufnell Park Pest Control has the famous British Library in Euston Road within the area where she does most of her pest control. She took advantage of her British Library membership to attend one of their conservation demonstration days on 25 September and discovered it's not only pests that the conservators do battle with.

As Imogen explains: "One of the benefits of being a member of the British Library is having the chance to visit the conservation areas and meet the experts who work with the collection. Many of these items have suffered deterioration over time, ravages of humidity, temperature, fungus, mould, rodents and insects."

The team all have their specialist areas of interest and the aim of curation is moving from restoration to conservation. Imogen's day started by looking at rare old books which had been repaired following the falling apart of their bindings. Pages were cleaned using specialist sponges, a range of brushes and one particular tool for flattening folded corners – entomological tweezers.

Imogen's favourite section contained a small collection of insect pests including death watch beetles, psocids, varied carpet beetles and weevils. Behind it was a poster which all pest controllers should be familiar with, the one from English Heritage designed by David Pinniger as a guide to museum pests. Also in the display were demi-diamond pheromone lure holders.

The day progressed to a discussion with the experts who are working through the portion

of 11th century Chinese Buddhist scrolls discovered in Cave 17, of the Mogao Caves near Dunhuang, north-west China. Repairs are being made to damaged areas using a light spray of moisture to soften the document and then strengthening them by pasting in sections of Japanese paper, which is very strong due to the length of the fibres. The original parchment was made from mulberry trees, not the outer bark but the phloem. The ink had given some insecticidal resistance, but the opening portions of the scrolls had suffered the most damage from handling.

It's interesting to note that the conservators do not wear gloves when handling the materials as they reduce manual dexterity which could cause damage to the objects. However, all of them had very clean hands with short nails.

An ancient flag was being repaired. This flag was used by the East India Regiment in the 17th century. Over the years it has hung in Government buildings and has been portrayed in the background of paintings now displayed at the British Museum.

Liz Rose, who is the lead conservator, estimated that repair to the flag would take



100 hours. So far it has involved gentle vacuuming and careful washing in a specially designed water bath, copied from ones at the Victoria & Albert museum. The same design of water bath is in use at Eltham Palace, the venue where Imogen was filmed as part of the 2014 TV programme *The Ladykillers*, alongside consultant David Pinniger and English Heritage's Dee Lauder.

Tiny gentle vacuum cleaners are used in the process. There has been significant disintegration. Liz started her career as a screen printer. She designed a support board covered with a printed flag which lies beneath the deteriorated flag to give colour and enable interpretation. Over the top of the flag is a fine net which will prevent the deteriorated silk moving in the future. She is sewing this sandwich together by hand, including the flag pole. As the flag is huge Liz can only work for short periods at a time, reaching across to the middle and allowing her eyes to adjust as she makes fine intricate stitches with a curved needle.