

Labels unwrapped



Meet PelGar's Sandy Mackay at PestTech

Knowing what's on the label will make your life easier and legal

Be honest, when was the last time you properly read a rodenticide label? Rodenticides have been around a long time so it's tempting to think we know it all. But, beware, labels have been changing and that means there are now major differences in when, where and how similar products can be used. **Pest** talked to PelGar's new head of technical, Sandy Mackay, to find out more.

With new rodenticide labels hitting the shelves on a near daily basis it is critical to understand what has changed, why changes have been made and, most importantly, how this will impact the products you use and the way you use them.

Where can I use rodenticides?

Check the use pattern on each label, they can differ considerably.

The majority of PelGar's difenacoum and bromadiolone baits can be used in open areas and waste dumps as well as in and around buildings and in sewers. But, be aware that not every manufacturer will be the same and, remember, if it's not on the label then it's not an authorised use pattern.

All brodifacoum, flocumafen and difethialone products (the single feed

poisons) remain authorised only for use in and around buildings and in sewers.

While the general public are restricted to using baits only in tamper-resistant bait stations, professional users are authorised to use covered and protected bait points and to apply bait directly into the burrow – but, again, be aware of your product label as not all products will have this use pattern listed.

How often do I visit bait points?

While previous label iterations have been prescriptive, the revised labels leave visit frequency to the discretion of the operator and emphasise that visit frequency should be based upon the pre-treatment survey. When burrow baiting is employed the visit frequency should be increased.

This change is a great help to pest professionals meaning visit frequency can now be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Can I leave bait down permanently?

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use has published new guidance on permanent baiting (see pages 13-15 in this issue). As indicated in the guidance document permanent baiting can be a legitimate technique but it should only be employed in the specific circumstances listed on the label.

Only some difenacoum and bromadiolone products will be authorised for permanent baiting so don't assume your usual difenacoum or bromadiolone product will automatically be authorised for this task. It will not. Checking the label is essential.

Did the bait change or just the hazard symbols?

The changes in classification of rodenticide baits some 6-12 months ago introduced revised labels requiring the label to show the appropriate hazard symbol, danger signal word and associated hazard phrases.

Ensure you have the latest copies of the product labels you use, along with the safety data sheets in your files.

What about bait stations?

Bait stations must now be labelled with the following information:

'Do not move or open. Contains a rodenticide. Product name or authorisation number. Active substance. In case of incident call a poison centre.'

As the UK does not have a specific poison centre, the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) recommends calling 111.



Several distributors now supply pre-printed bait box labels, such as the example above from Tenv, to meet the new label requirements

Ready-for-use bait for the control of rats and mice in and around buildings, in open areas, waste dumps and in sewers.

Target	Level of infestation	Bait points	Application	Advice
Mice (<i>Mus musculus</i>)	Low	Up to 40g every 5 metres	Indoors and outdoors around buildings, tamper resistant bait stations, covered and protected baiting points.	The frequency of visits to the treated area should be at the discretion of the operator, in the light of the survey conducted at the outset of the treatment. That frequency should be consistent with the recommendations provided by the relevant code of best practice. Sites where burrow baiting is used should be visited more frequently than those where secure bait boxes are employed.
	High	Up to 40g every 2 metres		
Rats (<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>)	Low	Up to 200g every 10 metres	Indoors and outdoors around buildings, in open areas, waste dumps and sewers: tamper resistant bait stations, covered and protected baiting points, direct application into the burrow.	Baits must be applied in a way so that they do not come into contact with water and are not washed away.
	High	Up to 200g every 5 metres		
Rats in sewers (<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>)		Up to 200g per manhole	Anchored or applied in bait stations, covered and protected bait points.	

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Pest species are also listed on product labels – most rodenticides are approved only for use on house mice and brown rats. Use against any other species (e.g. squirrels) is strictly prohibited.

Permanent baiting:

Permanent baiting is strictly limited to sites with a high potential for re-invasion when other methods of control have proven insufficient. The permanent baiting strategy shall be periodically reviewed in the context of integrated pest management (IPM) and the assessment of the risk for re-infestation. Sites under a permanent baiting regime should be inspected regularly in accordance with product label directions. The period between visits should be determined by the technician in charge but will not be longer than every four weeks when permanent baiting is conducted outdoors. For permanent baiting follow any additional instructions provided by the CRRU Guidance on Permanent Baiting. If after a treatment period of 35 days baits continue to be consumed and no decline in rodent activity is observed, the likely cause must be determined. Where other elements have been excluded, it is likely that there are resistant rodents so consider the use of a non-anticoagulant rodenticide, where available, or a more potent anticoagulant rodenticide. Also consider the use of traps as an alternative control measure.

Confused?

PelGar's technical team can help interpret labels and give advice on use and best practice in specific situations.

Email: technical@pelgar.co.uk or call 01420 80744.

Distributors can also offer advice and/or put you in touch with relevant manufacturers.

Danger

May damage the unborn child. May cause damage to organs (Blood) through prolonged or repeated exposure.



Bait stations must be labelled with the following information: 'do not move or open', 'contains a rodenticide', 'product name or authorisation number', 'active substance', 'in case of incident call a poison centre – UK: 111'

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FIND OUT MORE!
Contact Sean Paker: sean@catchmaster.com
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NPMA
National Pest Management Association