

Minister's Order on Rodenticides

What is Happening?

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy recently took action to reduce risks to wildlife from pesticides.

Under a Minister's Order, **effective July 21, 2021**, rodenticides containing the active ingredients **brodifacoum, bromadiolone, or difethialone** (known as second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides or SGARs) are banned for sale and use in B.C. Exemptions are being provided for "Essential Services" and Agricultural Operators.

This order will be in place for a period of 18-months while a scientific review is being performed on this issue to inform future recommendations. The ban is scheduled to end in January 2023.

What is the Issue?

The Ministry is aware of an increased incidence of wildlife injuries or deaths linked to the use of rodenticides, or "rat poisons". This may include rodenticide uses around homes, businesses and farms.

Wildlife may become poisoned by eating rodenticides (primary poisoning) or through eating rodents that have consumed rodenticides (secondary poisoning).

Compared to other rodenticides, SGARs are highly toxic and are retained longer in the body tissues of rodents that consume them. Birds of prey (including owls, hawks and eagles) and other predators or scavengers of rodents are especially at risk of secondary poisoning from SGARs.

What are the New Requirements?

Restrictions for Purchase

- SGARs must now be displayed in a manner that restricts customer access. A certified pesticide dispenser must assist purchasers and verify that the use is authorized under the Minister's order.
- Agricultural Operators¹ are still allowed to purchase and use SGARs.
- An Agricultural Operator **must provide proof of qualifying agricultural status** at the point of purchase by showing **one** of the following documents:
 - Farmer ID Card
 - PST Exemption Certificate for Farmers
 - AgriStability Statement
 - AgriInvest Statement
 - B.C. Property Assessment Notice (showing proof of farm status)

Key Points

- ➔ Wildlife can be poisoned by eating rodenticides and from eating prey which have consumed rodenticides.



Photo courtesy of D. Pfeifer

- ➔ The Minister has ordered that second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) are banned for sale and use in B.C., with limited exemptions including Agricultural Operations.
- ➔ Pesticide vendors will require proof of farm status at the point of purchase for SGARs.
- ➔ People using SGARs must keep records for each use and properly dispose of unused bait and dead rodents.
- ➔ SGARs may only be used as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.

¹ An "Agricultural Operation" is defined in the B.C. Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management

The Rules Have Changed - A Guide for Agricultural Operators

- An employee or agent of the Agricultural Operation may purchase SGARs if they provide:
 - proof of qualifying agricultural status noted above, and
 - written verification (for example, a letter) that they are authorized to make the purchase, signed by the owner or operator whose name is on the document verifying farm status

Use Requirements for SGARs

- A person may only use SGARs after following the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM):
 - Implement measures to prevent rodents
 - Identify rodent species to be managed
 - Monitor rodent populations and locations
 - Determine the threshold to know when to use a pesticide
 - Select best treatment methods, considering rodenticide alternatives
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of the SGAR use
- These IPM steps are described in detail in the guidance document [Rodent IPM: Best Management Practices for Agricultural Operations](#), available on the Ministry website.
- Unused bait and dead rodents must be properly disposed of. Learn more about proper disposal by reading the pesticide label and the guidance document [Best Management Practices: Disposal of Rodenticides](#), available on the Ministry website.

Record-Keeping Requirements for SGARs

- All users of SGARs must now **keep records for each use**. Agricultural Operators must record:
 - Applicator's name
 - Name of the target pest (for example, rat or mouse)
 - Description of the IPM measures that have been taken to prevent rodents and manage them without SGARs
 - Pesticide trade name and registration number
 - Treatment method (for example, bait stations or in wall voids), and amount of bait used
 - Date, time and location of treatment
- A [record-keeping template](#) is available in the Ministry website for Agricultural Operators using SGARs
- These records must be kept for **3 years**. Records are not required to be submitted to the Ministry unless requested.

What else can I do to control rodents?

An IPM program with a focus on prevention is the only long-term solution to managing rodents.

Visit www.gov.bc.ca/RodentIPM for more information