

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?

Display of SGARs – Restricted Access & Signage

- SGARs must now be displayed in a manner that restricts customer access. For example, pesticides could be displayed behind a counter or in a locked cabinet. **A customer must not be able to access the pesticide without assistance from a certified dispenser.**
- A sign produced by the ministry indicating risks to wildlife from SGAR use must be posted **where SGARs are displayed for sale**. An electronic version of this sign for printing can be obtained from www.gov.bc.ca/RodentIPM

Key Points

- ➔ Wildlife can be poisoned by eating rodenticides and from eating prey which have consumed rodenticides.
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- Photo courtesy of D. Pfeifer*
- ➔ The Minister has ordered a **ban** on the sale and use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in B.C.
 - ➔ Limited exemptions are allowed for identified Essential Services to protect public health, food supply and critical infrastructure.
 - ➔ Pesticide vendors will require written verification for Essential Services at the point of purchase for SGARs.
 - ➔ Pesticide vendors must only sell SGARs to verified Agricultural Operators, Licenced pest control companies or Essential services.
 - ➔ Pesticide vendors must keep additional SGAR sales records.

Restrictions on who can purchase SGARs

- SGARs may only be purchased and used for limited essential uses by **Agricultural Operators¹, Licenced pest control companies, and Essential Services**.
 - **Certified dispensors employed by a pesticide vendor** must also confirm the purchaser is authorized under the Minister's Order, and
 - Licensees and Essential Services purchasers must provide a valid pesticide applicator's certificate in the **Structural or Agriculture category**. A pesticide applicator's certificate is not required from Agricultural operators at this time.
- 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
 - AgriStability Statement
 - AgriInvest Statement
 - B.C. Property Assessment Notice (showing proof of farm status)
 - PST Exemption Certificate for Farmers
- 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
- **Licenced pest control companies** must provide:
 - a pesticide licence (or copy), and
 - a pesticide applicator's certificate (or copy), in the Structural or Agriculture category
- An employee of the licensee may purchase SGARs if they provide the information noted above, **as well as the following**:
 - written verification that the purchaser is a current employee or agent and is authorized by the employer to buy SGARs,
 - written verification that the certified pesticide applicator is a current employee (if different from the purchaser), and
 - the name and contact information for the employer.
- **Essential Services** have been identified by the Ministry to avoid disruption to critical safety and food supply functions in the province. See Schedule A of the Minister's Order at the end of this document for the complete list.
- Essential Services include businesses and services for:
 - public health and safety
 - critical infrastructure
 - food supply
 - transportation
 - sanitation
 - communications and information technology
 - mortuary related services

¹ An "Agricultural Operation" is defined in the B.C. Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management
This summary provides guidance and is not a legal document. In all cases the *Integrated Pest Management Act* and Regulation will prevail.

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- Other uses of SGARs not identified as essential are banned. For example, SGARs cannot be used in or around most residential buildings, office buildings, parks, schools or non-food retail shops.
- Essential Service purchasers must:
 - demonstrate that the business or service is an Essential Service (for example, a letter on company letterhead, business card or employee ID card), and
 - provide a pesticide applicator's certificate (or copy) of the staff member applying the SGARs, in the Structural or Agriculture category
- An employee or agent of the Essential Service may purchase SGARs if they provide the information noted above, **as well as** the following:
 - written verification that the purchaser is a current employee and is authorized by the employer to buy SGARs,
 - written verification that the certified pesticide applicator is a current employee (if different from the purchaser), and
 - the name and contact information for the employer
- **Certified dispensers employed by a pesticide vendor cannot sell SGARs to any other person while the temporary ban is in effect.**

Dispenser-Customer Interaction

- **Certified dispensers employed by a pesticide vendor** are required to interact with customers prior to the purchase of most rodenticides. There are new requirements regarding this interaction for sale of SGARs.
- Previously, certified dispensers employed by a pesticide vendor were required to:
 - inform purchasers they may lawfully use the pesticide only for the purposes stated on the label and according to the directions,
 - offer to provide advice on pest management and the safe use of pesticides,
 - ask each person who intends to purchase a pesticide what the person intends to use the pesticide for,
 - confirm that the pesticide is appropriate for the intended use according to the label instructions,
 - advise the customer that a provincial licence or certificate may be required to use the pesticide, and
 - advise the customer that municipal bylaws may restrict the use of the pesticide.
- **The above requirements remain in place. In addition, certified dispensers** must now provide additional information during their customer interaction when selling SGARs. This includes communicating:
 - SGARs present a risk to non-target wildlife. For example, secondary poisoning could occur when birds of prey consume a rodent that has eaten a SGAR, and
 - that the use of SGARs is subject to the new requirements:
 - Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles must be followed before considering rodenticide use,

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- The user must evaluate the effectiveness of a SGAR after each use,
- The user must dispose of unused SGARs and deceased rodents properly, and
- The user must now record additional information when SGARs are applied.

New Record-Keeping Requirements for Sale of SGARs

- When selling SGARs, pesticide dispensers working under licenced vendors must now record additional information to the record-keeping requirements already required under the IPM Regulation.
- The following information is required for each SGAR sale:
 - Date of sale
 - Name, address and phone number of the person buying the SGAR
 - Product trade name and PCP number
 - Weight of container and number of containers sold
 - Category of buyer (licensee, essential service or agricultural operation)
 - If the person buying is an employee:
 - Name and contact information of the business or operation the SGAR is being bought for
 - If the buyer is a licensed pest control company:
 - Licence number
 - Certificate holder's name and certificate number
 - If the buyer is an essential service:
 - Certificate holder's name and certificate number
 - Certified dispenser's name and certificate number
- An updated [record-keeping template](#) is available on the Ministry website for vendors selling SGARs

How can I learn more?

An IPM program with a focus on prevention is the only long-term solution to managing rodents. For information on developing an IPM rodent program or advising customers on rodent control, see guidance available on the Ministry website:

- [Rodent IPM: Best Management Practices for Residents](#)
- [Rodent IPM: Best Management Practices for Agricultural Operations](#)

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

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Schedule A: Essential Services

Businesses and services that provide:

1. Health and Health Services
 - a. Hospitals, emergency care services, primary care facilities.
2. Public Safety
 - a. The Department of National Defence (DND) facilities, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) facilities, and operations and services that support the Canadian Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary;
 - b. Emergency management facilities at local, regional, provincial, and federal levels.
3. Critical Infrastructure
 - a. Drilling and production, refineries, processing, treatment and completion facilities, storage, distribution network infrastructure and support operations critical in maintaining electricity, drinking water, waste water, oil and natural and propane gas, fuel, petroleum, crude oil and other fuel sources such as heating oil.
 - b. Gas stations, diesel, propane and heating fuel providers and providers of charging stations for electric vehicles.
4. Food and Agriculture Service Providers
 - a. Food processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation and distribution of foods, feed products and beverages;
 - b. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food;
 - c. Retail: Grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers' markets and other establishments engaged in the retail sale or provision of food;
 - i. Includes food banks
5. Transportation
 - a. Services and facilities that facilitate the interprovincial and intra-provincial transportation of essential supplies, personnel, and services, including port/waterfront operations, road, air and rail operations.
6. Sanitation
 - a. Waste (garbage and organics) and recycling collection, processing, and disposal.
7. Communications / Information Technology
 - a. Information technology, radio, cable providers, and telecommunications services, including phone, internet, wireless communications, data centres; satellite operations, undersea cable landing stations, Internet Exchange Points, and manufacturers and distributors of communications equipment.
8. Coroners and those Performing Mortuary and Related Services
 - a. Coroners and facilities performing mortuary services, including funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemeteries, as well as facilities supporting the appropriate handling, identification, storage, transportation, and certification of human remains.

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