



Best Practice for Controlling Rats with D-Blocks®

Introduction

This covers the most efficient (least amount of effort) and effective (best results) of accomplishing the application of D-Blocks® for the control of Rats in bait stations. This is based on reputable procedures that have proven themselves as a result of research outcomes and over time by Connovation field advisors and large numbers of customers.

D-Blocks are a high quality, cost effective form of pest control that does not require a licence. They contain the first generation anticoagulant, Diphacinone as the active ingredient. Diphacinone has a short half-life of 3 days, meaning it breaks down quicker and has no bio-accumulation unlike brodifacoum which has a half-life of 113 days (Fisher), with minimal secondary kills. D-Blocks are an environmentally responsible product to use with minimal food chain impact so won't harm the environment. D-Blocks are a sustainable choice for farmers, orchardists, lifestyle block owners and others.

Why use D-Blocks

- *Biodegradable with no persistent residues
- *Environmentally responsible, 98.4% less persistent than brodifacoum, no secondary kills, minimal risk to native birds and non-target species such as farm dogs and domestic pets etc
- *Highly palatable, made from human food grade ingredients and proven to be significantly more palatable than other rat baits
- *NZ Food Safety Authority approved Maintenance Compound (non-dairy) and Asure Quality for Food/Beverage/Dairy, all Type C
- *A high quality cost effective toxin that does not require a licence
- *A sound, trustworthy and more humane alternative to 2nd generation anticoagulant baits without the secondary poisoning risk
- *Safe to handle
- *Dyed green for bird protection
- *Made in New Zealand

Product *D-Blocks*

Each D-Block weighs 28 grams and is triangular in shape and has a hole through the centre that allows the bait to be secured onto internal bait station spikes, wired, nailed, or tied into place (particularly important with rats otherwise they will carry baits away, hoard and not necessarily eat). The Blocks are compact as they are made through an extrusion manufacture process and have acute edges that rodents like to gnaw. They offer high palatability to rodents as they are made from the best human food grade ingredients and do not contain wax which rodents do not like to eat. They are suitable for use in urban or rural environments.



Rat Sign

Fresh droppings, rub marks, gnawing, feeding activity, and sightings.

Application *Prefeeding*

Unlike acute toxins, with anticoagulants such as Diphacinone (D-Blocks) there is no need to pre-feed with nontoxic bait as the onset of symptoms takes some time and rodents do not associate feeling sick with the product.

D-Blocks in Bait Stations

D-Blocks are for use in bait stations only. Bait placing for rats should be on a minimum of a 50 x 50 metre grid. **Locate bait in dry locations near runways and nesting sites away from children, pets and domestic animals. Maintain an uninterrupted supply of bait for all rats for at least ten consecutive days or longer if signs of rat activity continue.**

Use Rodent Cafe', Philproof Economy or other bait station designed for holding rat bait. D-Blocks placed into bait stations will prevent access and predation by non-target animals and afford protection to bait from the weather. Site bait stations in areas where there is evidence of rats. Spray ready to use Lure-It at and around the entrances and on top of the bait stations as the enticing fragrant lure will help to draw rats to the bait.

Put gloves on before handling the Blocks. Ideally fill bait stations up with D-Blocks. Check each bait station at two day intervals in the first instance in cases of high population; you don't want to run out of bait. Perhaps scale back if bait take is reduced. Where part or all of the bait has been eaten, replace with fresh bait. If consistent bait takes occur then additional stations must be placed. Wash gloves in clean water and store in poison store for future use.

Safety Recommendations

Adhere strictly to product label directions at all times.

D-Blocks must be stored in its original container away from children, pets or food.

All remaining bait should be removed and destroyed by burning or burying in at least 60cm of soil.

Recording

If a large number of bait stations are placed then record the stations on a GPS or geo map. This will ensure all stations are replenished with bait and once baiting is discontinued that all poison is removed if required.



Pre-Operational Monitoring

This can be undertaken with Connovation Chew Cards to determine rodent numbers and to help identify the population you are dealing. A Chew Card is a 180mm x 90mm piece of white core flute card that has a pre-feed peanut butter Lucerne paste pressed into the flute channels from the sides. The cards provide a visual surface for attraction and a surface for biting. They indicate presence of species by bite mark identification.



Products

D-BLOCKS



LURE-IT



CHEW CARDS



RODENT CAFÉ



PHILPROOF ECONOMY



LURE-IT LURE SPRAY

