

Mouse and rat poisons pose hidden risks for pets and wildlife

Every year in Canada, many unsuspecting pets and wild animals are accidentally poisoned by rodenticides intended to control mice and rats.

Dogs, cats or predatory wildlife (such as owls, hawks, falcons, weasels, martins, foxes and coyotes) face poisoning risks from either directly eating the rodenticides or indirectly, by eating a poisoned rat or mouse.

That's why it's important that you use rodenticides with care and ensure that you follow the instructions on the product label. Although it can take up

to 35 days to control an infestation in your home, there are exceptions based on how many rodents there are and how you go about eliminating them.

Here are a few tips from Health Canada on ways to lower the risks:

- identify suitable baiting or trapping locations; good sites include



wall voids and gaps, under corrugated sheeting or inside a length of pipe. Make use of sheltered areas that can be secured against entry by small children and animals,

- choose a treatment method that will reduce the risk of poisoning to pets and wildlife,
- draw a map of the area and mark

any locations that need treatment; record any activity or progress in order to keep the process moving successfully and quickly.

Health Canada recently introduced new safety measures aimed at reducing the risks to humans and animals associated with the use of rodenticides. These new measures, which include the use of tamper-proof bait stations, are outlined at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/pmra.

—www.newscanada.com



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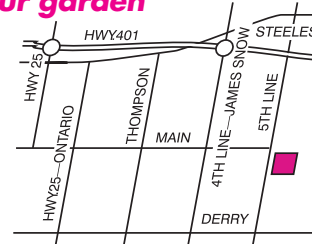
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