

Bait Station Location is a Key to Success

Placement of the bait station impacts the overall effectiveness of a rodent-control program.

Know the Situation

Where a bait station, or more likely a group of stations, is located has a lot to do with a successful rodent-control effort. As a rodent control professional, it's important to know where the rats or mice are nesting, travelling and feeding. Bait station placement based on rodent behavior is critical to successful rodent control.



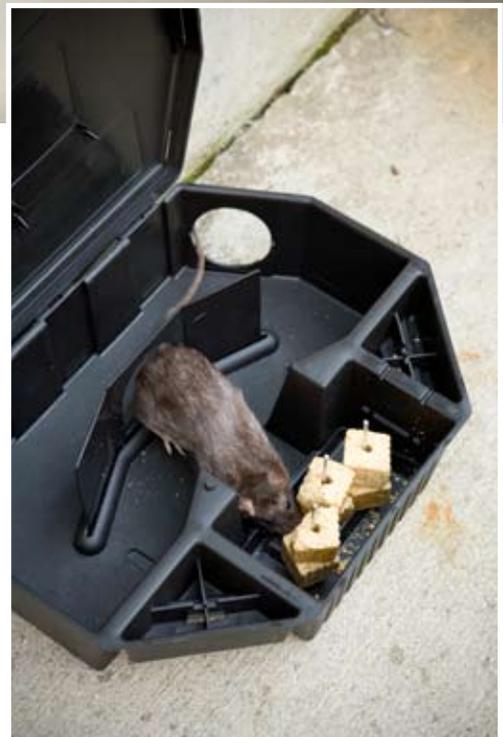
Here are some things to consider when choosing the right locations for bait stations:

- Place stations on runways where rodents are most likely to encounter them. For Norway rats this is usually on the ground and for roof rats this usually means up high. In targeting mice it means locating the station high, low and in between.
 - Maintain an uninterrupted supply of rodenticide. Empty bait stations mean missed opportunities to kill more rodents.
 - When two or more consecutive stations exhibit signs of feeding, add stations in between to make sure rodents are not nesting or getting into the structure between the active stations.
 - Place bait stations where non-target animals such as raccoons, dogs and squirrels are least likely to interact with the station.
- If the task is doing commercial rodent control around food facilities, become familiar with applicable National Pest Management Association (NPMA) and third-party sanitation audit guidelines and standards.
 - Due to their fear of anything new in the living environment, Norway and roof rats may need coaxing to get them to enter stations the first time. To solve this, place a non-toxic food attractant just inside both entries. Consider peanut butter, fish or liver-flavored cat food, apple slices, bread or candy. DO NOT allow the attractant to contact the rodenticide.
 - Space outdoor placements closely to intercept rodents coming from likely harborages such as infested buildings next door or dense vegetation. Space them further apart where rodent pressure is likely to be light such as along large paved areas.





- Don't clean stations too much. Scents from previous visitors encourage new visitors to enter and feed.
- Rodents have a phenomenal sense of taste. Be very careful not to contaminate rodenticides with bad tasting chemicals which may be on hands, including gasoline and nicotine. Do not spray insecticide on the bait. Certain insecticides such as some pyrethroids may inhibit feeding even if they are only sprayed in the stations on the floor.



- Rodent populations and account structures change, so keep this in mind when choosing a method to anchor bait stations. They should be relatively easy to relocate to respond to situation changes.

Finally, look for signs of rodent activity throughout the account and then take the fight to them. Be creative, safe, persistent and law abiding in the battle against rodent pests.