

RAT CONTROL USING FERACOL IN BAIT BAGS

(From: [DoC's 'Choose your control method for rats'](#))

Poisons in bait bags

Poison baits are put in biodegradable bags/containers and stapled to trees along transects. Currently Feracol (cholecalciferol) is the only rat poison that can be used in bait bags on public conservation land.

Operators can cover areas at a pace comparable to hand laying and if bait bags are not retrieved, only a single visit is required to apply the bait.

When:

This technique has wide application where ground control techniques are feasible, project objectives call for periodic control of rats only and non-target issues can be effectively managed. Feracol in bait bags is best suited for the control of rats at medium to low densities. It is commonly used where concerns over toxicity to dogs or humans is an issue with alternative toxins.

Potential issues:

Bait bags may not achieve a rapid knockdown when rats densities are high.

If bait bag spacing is too wide, not all rats will access the bait bags.

Baits are not well protected from weather.

Baits left to degrade can expose rats and other non-target pests to sub-lethal doses.

Limited by terrain. In rugged country it becomes slow and dangerous to workers.

There is no infrastructure (tracks, bait stations) left for ongoing control.

There is increasing evidence of non-target issues (e.g. weka, robins, short-tailed bats), particularly where the bags are left out for an extended period.

Bait is relatively expensive.

Sufficient toxic bait must be available to ensure all animals visiting the bait station receive a lethal dose in one feed to help prevent sub lethal poisoning and bait shyness.

Method best practice document: Method best practice document has not yet been developed.