

Instructions for Making a Plastic Pipe Bait Station for Roof Rats

The materials needed for the bait station can be readily purchased from a local retail hardware store. Construct each bait station using 2-inch diameter black ABS pipe. This pipe is specifically designed for outdoor use, is easily hidden in landscape plants, and can be readily secured to walls and fences. The 2-inch diameter also works best to prevent non-target animals from entering the station and accessing the bait. Rats readily enter the station through the open pipe ends to feed on the bait concealed in the center section of the bait station.



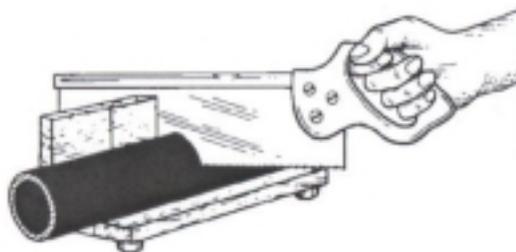
Materials Needed

- One section of 2-inch diameter black ABS pipe
- One black threaded cleanout tee (2-inch diameter)

Tools Needed

- Saw
- Sanding paper

Step 1. Each bait station will need two sections of pipe that are cut to 6" lengths.



Step 2. Lightly smooth the cut ends with sand paper to remove any rough edges that may prevent the pipe pieces from sliding into the cleanout tee section.



Step 3. Slide the two pieces of cut pipe into each open end of the cleanout tee. The pieces should fit snugly. Do **not** glue the pieces of pipe into place.



Remove the threaded cap of the cleanout tee. Place one unopened bag of rodent bait pellets into the center and replace the cap. It is not necessary to open the bag. Let the rats chew on the bag to access the bait.



Always attach a pesticide bait label to each bait station to properly identify the contents. Check the bait station regularly and replace bait as needed.



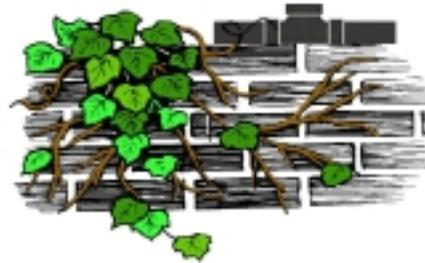
Suggestions for Effective Placement of Bait Stations for Roof Rats

Roof rats may be active at ground level as well as areas above the ground. It is important to identify all areas of activity and place bait stations in locations where the rats will be certain to find and feed on the bait. When appropriate sites are identified, make every effort to place the bait stations where children, pets, and wildlife will not be able to reach them. Secure the bait stations to prevent the bait from spilling to the ground where children, pets, or wildlife will have access to it. Use heavy wire or metal straps to attach the bait stations to tree branches and wood fences, and epoxy glue for concrete or brick surfaces. Below are some suggestions for placing ABS pipe bait stations.

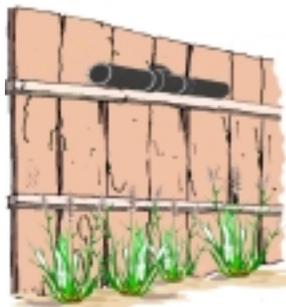
If rats have been observed running on tree branches or feeding on fruit, secure a bait station along a frequently used branch.



Rats follow established paths from their nests to their food sources. Look for frequently used pathways in ground cover or other heavy vegetation and secure a bait station along these travel lines.



Roof rats typically travel along the support ledges of fences or between double fencing. Secure a bait station on the fence or suspend with wire between the double fencing if signs of activity such as fecal material, rub marks, or pathways are noted in these areas.



Roof rats often nest in the dead fronds of palm trees. Conceal a bait station at the base of any tree where activity is suspected. Wood piles are another favorite nesting site. Place a bait station in the wood pile if fecal material or other signs of activity are seen.



When alternative food sources are available to rats, they will have little need to seek out additional food or investigate anything new in their environment. Before placing bait stations, eliminate all other food sources such as bird feeders, fallen fruit, and dog feces. To prevent additional food sources for rats, never leave uneaten pet food out over night and store the bulk bags in rodent-proof containers. Garbage should always be placed in containers with secure lids, and compost piles and vegetable gardens should be effectively managed.

A pest bulletin distributed by:
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Vector Management Program
5050 Commerce Drive
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
(626) 430-5450