

# THE PEST MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

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## PEST MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE - CODE OF BEST PRACTICE HUMANE USE OF RODENT GLUE BOARDS

In order to protect public health within high-risk environments, the use of rodent glue boards remains an important route if all other options are considered inappropriate. Although rodent glue boards are not designed to physically harm rodents, it should be recognised that they can cause acute physical suffering, fear and stress to trapped animals, if used inappropriately or if there are delays in re-inspection times.

The definition of a rodent glue board is "any adhesive-coated surface used to catch rodents"

Glue Boards should only be sold to, or used by technicians who have been given adequate training and are competent in the effective and humane use of this technique. The following principles must be followed in order to minimise animal welfare concerns:

All interventions aimed at the removal of rodents, including the use of rodent glue boards, have the potential to harm non-target animals and the environment. Although following best practice can mitigate these risks, they cannot be entirely avoided. Therefore, the principal strategy when choosing methods for the control of rodents is to employ the method or methods that have the least potential for adverse impact (i.e. are the least severe and least likely to catch non target animals) but which will be effective in the prevailing circumstances. This is the concept of "risk hierarchy". For more information see the CRRU Code of Best Practice via [www.thinkwildlife.org](http://www.thinkwildlife.org)

### 1. Before choosing Glue boards

The operator must ensure that they have correctly identified an active rodent problem using careful consideration of both prior and current evidence. Patterns of rodent activity and movement should be mapped and monitored prior to the use of Glue Boards. Where appropriate, tools and techniques such as tracking dust, electronic alerts or cameras and visual inspection can aid this process. These tools will not only help identify the extent of the rodent infestation but can also verify rodent movement patterns and help determine the best locations for the Glue Boards. It should be recognised that 'blanket' glue board coverage of a premises may potentially introduce unacceptable risks to non-target species and therefore a targeted approach is advised.

### 2. Trained and competent user

Those selecting the use of or using rodent glue boards for rodent control should be trained and competent in their use. This is currently benchmarked at the RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management or equivalent.

### 3. Check rodent glue boards frequently

Where rodent glue boards are used these must be inspected at appropriate intervals. This should be within 12 hours of placing, or at least as soon as is reasonably practicable, including weekends and bank holidays. The pest controller may train one or more on-site personnel

to check the rodent glue boards at more frequent intervals in order to minimise the rodents' time spent on traps and/or free non-target species. It remains the responsibility of the pest controller (under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and Animal Health & Welfare Act 2006) to deal with any animals trapped on the rodent glue boards. This should be within 12 hours of placing, or at least as soon as is reasonably practicable, including weekends and bank holidays.

If unavoidable events cause slight extensions to inspection intervals, then the reasons should be recorded. Longer delays must be avoided (see contingency plan below). Where possible and practical, inspection times must be organised to minimise the time rodents are likely to be on the rodent glue board (e.g. if rodents are known to be active during certain periods, inspection times should be arranged with this in mind). However, be aware that too frequent checking may impair the efficacy of the control programme.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 and Animal Health & Welfare Act 2006 requires that caught animals must not display any signs of undue suffering, therefore inspections times should be as frequent as necessary to mitigate against this.

### 4. Remote Monitoring of Glue boards

Remote monitoring tools should be considered if their use will not impede the treatment. Monitoring of the boards remotely may reduce the amount of time that rodents are trapped. However, the effectiveness and reliability of any remote monitoring technology should be considered carefully to ensure reliability is verified prior to use. This will ensure the potential to cause un-necessary suffering in the event that it fails, is reduced. A contingency plan should be in place to deal with any such event.

### 5. Have a contingency plan

A contingency plan must be in place so that in the event of an emergency a second competent person can be called upon to inspect the rodent glue boards and deal with any captures or safely remove the rodent glue boards as appropriate. Where it is known rodent glue boards will not be inspected at appropriate intervals they must be taken up (even if only temporarily).

### 6. Detailed records

Detailed copies of records and location plans should be available on site at all times for all rodent glue boards laid during any treatment and must be updated as necessary to ensure traceability. Copies ensure information is available should site records be lost or unavailable.

Records should be kept of all work involving the use of Glue Boards for a minimum period of three years. This should include any risk assessments detailing why this course of action was chosen and all treatment reports relating to the work.

### 7. Dispatch of trapped rodents humanely

Rodents trapped on rodent glue boards must be dispatched quickly and humanely by technicians with appropriate training in methods of dispatch. It is essential that the operator has confirmation that the animal is dead before disposal.

### 8. Protect non-target animals

Rodent glue boards must be placed in such a manner that they do not present a risk to non-target species. In the event that a non-target animal is trapped, a freeing agent (a suitable food grade oil or similar emollient) should be applied to the animal for removal. If the trapped animal is injured in such a way that release would result in unnecessary suffering, it should be killed humanely. Non-targets should only be released at their site of capture, not elsewhere, and only if they appear to be physically unharmed and their release is not prohibited by law. Ensure when using rodent glue boards that a suitable emollient is available to hand.

### 9. Remove rodent glue boards at the end of treatment

At the end of a treatment all rodent glue boards must be accounted for, removed by the technician and the records endorsed accordingly.

### 10. Dispose of rodent glue boards safely

Rodent glue boards should be disposed of with care. The sticky surface must be covered to avoid the accidental trapping of non-target species or subsequent misuse, and the rodent glue board should be disposed of safely and discretely in accordance with legal waste requirements.

### 11. Communication with the customer

The use of Glue boards should be discussed with the client prior to treatment to ensure that they fully understand the implications, how they work and when necessary, arrange for out of hours inspections. Glue boards should be used during peak rodent activity times to increase the efficacy of the treatment and minimise the duration of their use. The frequency of inspections should be discussed with the client to enable an agreed action plan prior to their use.

The humane use of rodent glue boards is the legal responsibility of the pest controller. All technicians must be suitably trained and competent in their application, maintenance and ultimate disposal including the dispatch of the target species and safe removal of non-target species.

**IT SHOULD BE RECOGNISED THAT GLUE BOARDS CAN CAUSE ACUTE PHYSICAL SUFFERING, FEAR AND STRESS TO TRAPPED ANIMALS, PARTICULARLY IF USED INAPPROPRIATELY OR WHERE THERE ARE DELAYS IN RE-INSPECTION TIMES.**