Effective Rodent Control Methods

Why is Rodenticide Unsafe?
There is no safe place or delivery system for rodenticides. After a rodent consumes the poison, it stumbles around for three to four days, displaying itself as an especially tempting meal for predators. Non-target species such as hawks, owls, eagles, bobcats, coyotes, snakes, pets, and even children come in contact with rodenticide and may also suffer lethal and sublethal secondary poisoning.

How Does Rodenticide Harm Non-target Species?
Rodenticide poisoning causes a variety of physical symptoms, such as head droop, external bleeding, and organ failure.

Rodenticide Alternatives
The most effective long-term solution is to keep rodents away from your structures by following these proactive approaches:

- Secure attractants such as trash, pet food, fallen fruit, seed, and unclean surfaces.
- Keep vegetation trimmed away from the building.
- Removing invasive weeds near your structure will also reduce connective habitat for rodents and other nuisance species such as cane toads.
- Seal entry points to prevent rodents from entering the building.
- Choose physical snap traps.

Safe Products
- Effective non-lethal methods include Havahart traps and ContraPest rodent control which is a proactive, long-term solution targeting rodents’ populations.
- First-generation baits with these active ingredients: chlorophacinone, diphacinone, diphacinone sodium salt, warfarin, and warfarin sodium salt.

Let Nature Work!
- Natural predators such as snakes, bobcats, coyotes, hawks, eagles, and owls can manage rodent populations by feeding on rats and mice.

Create an Owl Habitat: Plant Trees. Build a Nest Box!
To encourage birds of prey to stay in your area, consider planting canopy trees and installing a nest box!

- In a single night, Eastern Screech Owls can eat up to a third of their body weight in mice and other small rodents.
- Red-shouldered hawks can eat between 2,000-3,000 rodents each year.

Visit these links for more info:
www.audubon.org/news/how-build-screech-owl-nest-box
www.epa.gov/rodenticides/restrictions-rodenticide-products

Bald Eagles on our islands have been physically harmed due to rodenticide use!
The most common raptors in Florida include Eastern Screech Owls, Bald Eagles, and Red-shouldered Hawks. Together, these birds mitigate the rodent population and can often fall victim to rodenticide poisoning.