



## Rodent Bait Policy

The Vector Control & Environmental Services Division of the Fort Wayne-AlLEN County Department of Health places bait around a structure to eliminate rats as needed to remove potential public health threats. Bait is placed in burrows or secure bait stations. The bait is not to be touched by the occupant/property owner as this is unsafe and may decrease the effectiveness of the department's efforts to eliminate the rats on the property. The department cannot provide bait to the public, due to Federal law.

Employees will not place bait inside the living areas of a structure. It is the employee's discretion to bait in attics, utility basements, crawl spaces, and garages depending on the situation. For safety reasons, employees will not climb into attics and/or crawl spaces to place bait.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The division recommends using snap or glue traps to capture rats and mice on the inside of the structure. Placement of bait inside the structure can cause several problems. Children or pets may eat the bait and have adverse reactions. Rats and mice that eat the bait may die in a wall void or other unreachable areas and produce a decomposing odor.

The division also advises occupant/property owners to seal any openings into the structure to prevent rats and mice from entering. Rats can squeeze through a hole the size of a quarter; mice a dime. Steel wool can be temporarily used until the hole is sealed permanently.

Proper sanitation on the exterior and interior of the structure will prevent rats and mice from causing headaches. Rats and mice are attracted to food, so failure to clean food debris off counters and the floor and counters will result in an infestation. Rats will eat animal feces, so picking up after the dog or cat on a regular occurrence will also help prevent an infestation.

**Any questions about the policy or recommendations, please contact the Director of Vector Control & Environmental Services at (260) 449-7473.**