



Rodent Problems? Think Twice Before Acting

People usually set traps to get rid of small rodents such as house mice. But when they want to kill larger rodents – such as arctic ground squirrels or red squirrels – they often consider other measures. In particular, if you want to use pesticides to get rid of rodents or if you want to hunt or trap them, you must be aware of certain regulations and restrictions.

Pesticides

Pesticides used or sold in Canada must be registered under the federal *Pesticide Control Products Act*. Pesticides are classified as domestic, commercial, or restricted under the act.

The Pesticides Regulations control the sale, use, storage and disposal of commercial and restricted pesticides. You may need the following documents if you intend to kill rodents using controlled pesticides such as *Sanex Liquid Rozol Rodenticide (PCP# 21160)* or *Liquid Lightening Rotozol (PCP#15591)*.

Pesticide Vendor Permits

People who sell commercial or restricted pesticides at the retail or wholesale level need a pesticide vendor permit. They must complete and submit the application form along with a \$25 annual permit fee. They are also required to record the details of each sale. (See the separate Fact Sheet on Pesticide Vendor Permits).

Pesticide Use Permits

People using or applying commercial or restricted pesticides need a use permit. They must submit a completed application form, along with a \$25 annual permit fee, and must also keep detailed records of all uses of the pesticide.

A permit is **not** required if the pesticide is being used for agricultural production on land owned or leased by the individual, except where the application is within 30 metres of water. (See the "Pesticides Regulations" Fact Sheet).

Pesticide Applicator Certificates

People applying commercial or restricted pesticides need an applicator certificate. They must pass a written exam to become certified.

Certificates are issued for periods of up to three years, and certification from other Canadian jurisdictions usually will be accepted in the Yukon. Certification may not be required if pesticides are being used for agricultural production, as noted above.

Pesticide Risks and Alternatives

As you can see, using commercial or restricted pesticides to kill rodents can be a fairly onerous process. In contrast, you do not need a pesticide permit to use a domestic pesticide or hire a certified exterminator. But before deciding to use pesticides at all, remember that they can be potentially dangerous to people, especially children, who may get into them. Also, the use of pesticides to kill rodents may result in harm to other animals, including pets, that find and eat poisoned carcasses.

The first step of any rodent control plan should be to take all reasonable measures to prevent damage to your property by, for example, using mesh screening to prevent access to buildings, and cleaning up attractants such as composts and dog food. If these efforts fail, you can also control rodents without pesticides through live capture and release, or destruction with lethal traps (both of which require a Wildlife Act permit; see below).

Hunting and Trapping

Under the Yukon *Wildlife Act*, permits are required to hunt or trap most types of wildlife, with two exceptions:

- A person may hunt or trap red squirrels, ground squirrels, and porcupine, to prevent damage to property the person owns or occupies, without a permit; and
- A person may hunt or trap all species of rat, all species of mouse and all species of vole without a permit for reasons of personal or public health, or to prevent damage to property the person owns or occupies.

A permit is required to hunt or trap any other type of wildlife. Wildlife Act permits are free and are obtained directly from the local Conservation, Protection, and Public Education Branch in all Yukon communities. Please note that you need the permission of the occupants of a residence to hunt or trap within one kilometre of an occupied dwelling.

Other Topics

Fact Sheets are also available on the following topics:

- Pesticides Regulations
- Pesticide Applicator Certificates
- Pesticide Service Permits
- Pesticide Use Permits
- Pesticide Vendor Permits
- Adult Mosquito Control
- Pesticide Use in the Yukon

For more information on pesticides or the Pesticides Regulations, please contact:

Environmental Programs Branch
Department of Environment (V-8)
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 667-5683
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5683
Fax: (867) 393-6205
email: envprot@gov.yk.ca

For more information on Wildlife Act permits or nuisance wildlife control, please contact:

Conservation Officer Services
Department of Environment (V-18)
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 667-8005
Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 8005
Fax: (867) 393-6206

Copies of Yukon regulations may be viewed online at <http://environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/monitoringenvironment/> under the "Standards & Approvals" section, or at any Yukon Public Library, territorial agent, territorial representative or regional services office. You may purchase copies at the Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building, 2071-2nd Avenue in Whitehorse, or by mail from the Subscriptions Clerk, Yukon Government Queen's Printer, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (phone (867) 667-5783 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 extension 5783).

