


Office of the City Manager

December 12, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Christine Daniel, City Manager 

Subject: Communication Opposing the Purchase and Use of Rodenticides

For your information, consistent with Council policy opposing the sale of rodent poisons that pose health risks to children, pets and wildlife, the attached communication has been included in the annual mailing to an estimated 13,000 Berkeley Business Licensees.

Thank you.

Attachments:

1. Resolution No. 65,581(adopted January 17, 2012)
2. Rodenticide Brochure

cc: William Rogers, Deputy City Manager
Mark Numainville, Acting City Clerk
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Jane Micallef, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services
Robert Hicks, Director, Finance
Pamela Embry, City Manager's Office

RESOLUTION NO. 65,581-N.S.

OPPOSE THE SALE AND PURCHASE OF RAT AND MOUSE POISONS DEEMED AN UNREASONABLE RISK TO CHILDREN, PETS AND WILDLIFE

WHEREAS, in 1998 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) issued its Reregistration Eligibility Decisions (REDs) for rodenticides, and expressed concern about accidental human exposures to rodenticides as well as risks to wildlife; and

WHEREAS, in September 2004, the US EPA released its Revised Comparative Ecological Assessment for nine Rodenticides, which found more than 300 documented wildlife incidents of exposure of birds and non-target mammals, including endangered species, to rodenticides, in particular those rodenticides that contain the ingredient brodifacoum; and

WHEREAS, brodifacoum residue has been detected in liver tissue of 27 of 32 endangered kit foxes screened for rodenticide residues from 1999 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Poison Control Centers annually receives between 12,000 and 15,000 reports of children under the age of six being exposed to these types of products; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the US EPA issued its Final Risk Mitigation Decision for Ten Rodenticides, and gave producers until June 2011 to research, develop and register new products that would be safer for children, pets and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, several companies have recently advised US EPA that they do not intend to adopt the new safety measures stipulated in the Final Risk Mitigation Decision, these companies include Reckitt Benckiser Inc. (makers of D-Con, Fleeject, and Mimas rodent control products), Spectrum Group (makers of Hot Shot rodent control products), and Liphatech Inc. (makers of Generation, Maki, and Rozol rodent control products); and

WHEREAS, as a result of the above companies' actions, many of the products that the US EPA considers to pose an unacceptable risk to children, pets and wildlife are still being sold to Berkeley residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council urges Berkeley businesses to stop the sale of rat and mouse poisons that would be prohibited under the US EPA's Risk Mitigation Decisions for Ten Rodenticides.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges Berkeley residents to avoid buying the above products, and to use less-toxic rodent control methods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges that all manufacturers of rat and mouse poisons immediately stop manufacture and sale of rat and mouse poisons that do not incorporate the safety measures specified in the US EPA's Risk Mitigation Decisions for Ten Rodenticides.

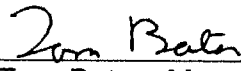
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to cancel or refuse to renew registration of the above products.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on January 17, 2012 by the following vote:

Ayes: Anderson, Arreguin, Capitelli, Maio, Moore, Wengraf, Worthington, Wozniak and Bates.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.



Tom Bates, Mayor

Attest: 

Mark Numainville, CMC, Acting City Clerk

Dear Retailer:

The US EPA plans to ban certain rodent baits that pose "unreasonable risks" to children, pets and wildlife (see attached). *The Berkeley City Council opposes the sale and purchase of rat and mouse poisons deemed an unreasonable risk to children pets and wildlife and urges you to discontinue using these products.*

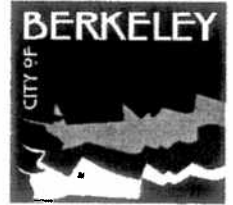
The specific products subject to EPA action are:

- All rodenticide products sold as pellets
- All rodenticide products containing brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone and difenacoum
- Rodenticide products that are not packaged with bait stations

The City of Berkeley urges you protect your customers and the community by discontinuing the use and sale of these products. If you have further questions, please contact us at 510-981-5310. We look forward to partnering with you to protect our community.

Sincerely,

City of Berkeley

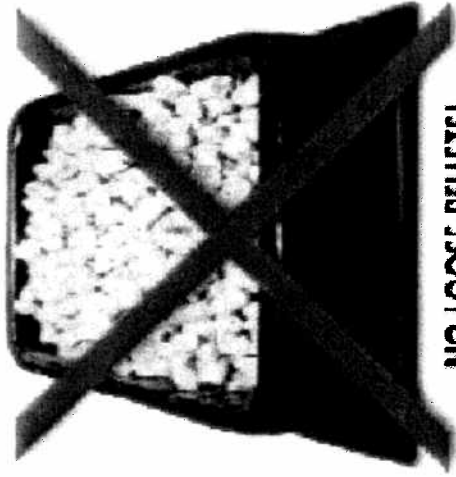


RODENT CONTROL CHECKLIST

- Maintain your property in a sanitary manner to reduce the potential for rodents in the area.
- Install where necessary, 1/4" wire mesh screens over foundation vents, attic vents, or crawlspaces to prevent the entrance of rodents.
- Cover all gaps greater than 1/4", such as pipe holes beneath doors, to prevent the entrance of rodents.
- Eliminate rodent harborage conditions, such as piles of debris, excessive vegetation, and rodent burrows.
- Reduce available food for rodents by storing pet foods and birdseeds in a pest proof containers with tight fitting lids.
- Remove cast-off items or elevate 18" above the ground to reduce harborage.
- Routinely inspect the property for evidence of rodents.
- Contact a licensed pest control professional

Don't Sell and Don't Buy the Bait

FACT SHEET



NO LOOSE PELLETS!

The City of Berkeley urges City retailers and consumers to avoid buying or selling certain kinds of common rat and mouse baits, which the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined pose an “unreasonable risk” to children, pets, and the environment.

What is the problem with these rats & mouse baits?

- The baits in question are high-volume products sold widely to consumers. When predators like hawks or owls eat a poisoned rat, the predator may be poisoned.
 - They are also highly toxic to any mammals – including children and pets. The American Association of Poison Control Centers annually receives between 12,000 and 15,000 reports of children under the age of six being exposed to these types of products.
 - The EPA determined that these products pose an “unreasonable risk” in 2008, after years of evaluation and scientific review. Under federal law, pesticides that pose an “unreasonable risk” should not be legal for sale. At that time, the EPA gave manufacturers three years to remove them from the market. The deadline for removal was June 4, 2011.
- Unfortunately, the baits’ manufacturer challenged EPA’s action which would keep the products on the shelves for years.

Manufacturers who have not complied with the US EPA’s safety requirements:

- Reckitt Benckiser, Inc. (makers of D-Con, Fleeject, & Mimas brand products)
- Spectrum Group (makers of Hot Shot brand Products)
- Liphatech, Inc. (makers of Generation, Maki, & Rozol brand products)

Which products should be avoided?

EPA # 3282-3 D-CON CONCENTRATE KILLS RATS & MICE
EPA # 3282-4 D-CON READY MIXED KILLS RATS & MICE
EPA # 3282-9 D-CON MOUSE PRUFE KILLS MICE
EPA # 3282-15 D-CON PELLETS KILLS RATS & MICE
EPA # 3282-65 D-CON MOUSE PRUFE II
EPA # 3282-66 D-CON PELLETS GENERATION II
EPA # 3282-74 D-CON BAIT PELLETS II
EPA # 3282-81 D-CON READY MIXED GENERATION II
EPA # 3282-85 D-CON MOUSE-PRUFE III
EPA # 3282-86 D-CON BAIT PELLETS III
EPA # 3282-87 D-CON II READY MIX BAIT-BITS III
EPA # 3282-88 D-CON BAIT PACKS III
EPA # 7173-247 GENERATION MEAL BAIT PACKS
EPA # 7173-283 DIFETHIALONE BAIT STATION
EPA # 7173-285 DIFETHIALONE 6G PASTE PLPKS
EPA # 8845-39 RID-A-RAT RAT & MOUSE KILLER

EPA # 8845-125 HOT SHOT SUDDEN DEATH BRAND MOUSE KILLER
EPA # 8845-126 HOT SHOT SUDDEN DEATH BRAND RAT KILLER I
EPA # 8845-127 HOT SHOT SUDDEN DEATH BRAND RAT & MOUSE KILLER
EPA # 8845-128 HOT SHOT SUDDEN DEATH BRAND MOUSE KILLER BAIT STATION

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mice-and-rats/cancellation-process.html>

Accessed May 30, 2012

Are there safer, effective ways to control rats and mice?

Yes! Visit www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PDF/QIT/qtrats.pdf for details.

- Seal holes inside and outside buildings to prevent entry by rats and mice.
- Keep areas clean and free of crumbs and water. Seal food in rodent-proof containers.
- Use snap-traps instead of baits whenever possible – a lot of them, set at night.
- In extreme cases, call a qualified professional.
- There are also safer bait products available, listed on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mice-and-rats/rodent-bait-station.html>.
- Visit the City of Berkeley Environmental Health, go to our website: <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=16028> or call 510-981-5310 to learn what you can do or report complaints of rodents or overgrown vegetation (which creates a habitat for rodents)