

23. Rat Control

V1



Rats are a nuisance because they eat food products and damage homes by gnawing on pipes, electric wires, wood and even soap.

Rats also create a health worry because they can cause food poisoning and carry fleas and mites that can infest a home.

In addition, they can carry leptospirosis, which can lead to liver failure, and hantavirus, which can cause respiratory illness.

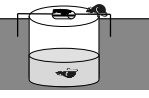
C15



Garbage control: The best line of attack against rats is to clean up the environment, so there is no food to attract them. If food is scarce they will make their nests elsewhere.

This means everyone in the area has to cooperate to reduce the rat population. There should be no open garbage lying around and all garbage bins should be tightly sealed.

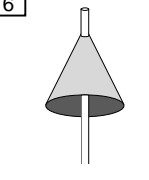
V12



Rats can get into a house if the opening is more than 1 cm, so all holes and cracks need to be tightly sealed with wire wool.

Poison is often used to kill rats but this is very dangerous for children, particularly in informal settlements where there are few areas they cannot reach. If poison is used it should be placed in a safe container with a sign showing where it has been left.

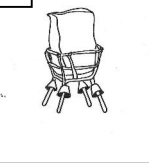
V16



Cats are the best deterrent for mice but may not be able to keep down a large rat population. In addition they may die from eating rats that have been poisoned by others.

Spring traps can be brought ready made but are also dangerous for small children. They cause dead rats to lie around which increases the bad odour if they are left undiscovered and rot. The best method is to catch rats by drowning them by using a **Bucket Trap** and bury them (V13).

C11



Mass Trapping

Rats are often shy of new objects. So by placing unset traps in a new location for a week or two they will get used to the traps. Once they start to ignore them, set lots of traps at once, in order to kill them faster than they breed and become shy of the trap.

There may be a need to have as many as 20-30 rat traps set in place around a badly littered area.

C12



Preventing rats from reaching food

Food can be kept out of reach of rats and mice by making a hanging basket for perishable items, such as fruit and vegetables that are not stored in a cupboard or fridge.

Hanging Baskets are made by taking two flat baskets and hanging them up from the roof with three cords or string of macramé, and putting the main string through a rat cone.

V11



V11



V11



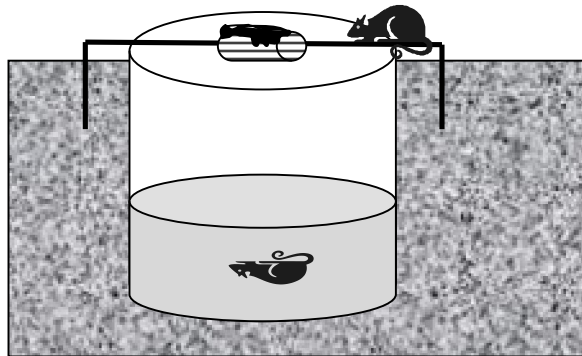
V11



23. HOW TO MAKE A RAT TRAP AND CONES

An easy design of Rat Trap using local materials

1. Bury a 20-litre bucket in the ground near known rat holes.
2. Take a dry maize cob (or toilet roll) and cut off the ends.
3. Push through it a thick wire, which is one meter long.
4. Make sure the cob or roll can spin freely.
5. Fasten the cob or roll in position in the center of the wire.
6. Bend the wire as shown and push firmly into the ground on either side of the bucket.
7. Put a depth of 15cm of water in the bucket.
8. Each evening, coat the corn cob with peanut butter, wetted flour or food which will stick.
9. Rats climb onto the maize cob and it swings round dropping them in the water.
10. Remove drowned rats each morning.
11. Bury all rats deep to prevent scavengers digging them up again
12. The trap works best during the new moon.



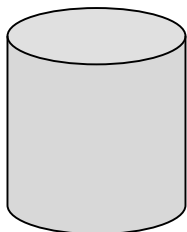
A Record for Rat catching!

934 rats with 9 traps in 21 days (N.Dexter . Zimbabwe)

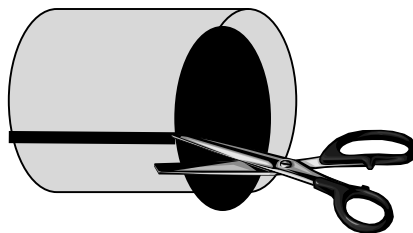
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How to Make Rat Cones to prevent rats getting up furniture

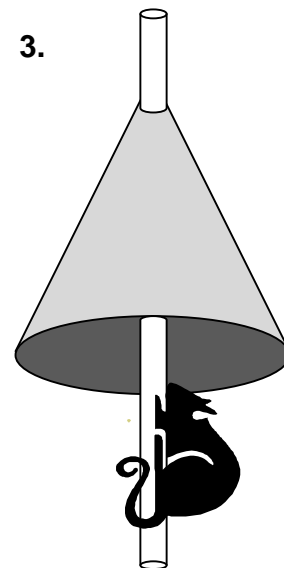
1.



2.



3.



1. Take a large empty tin.
Cut off the top and the bottom
2. Cut down one side
3. Roll one end tight around the leg of the furniture.
4. Tape it or get it welded by a tin smith
Rats running up the leg will not be able to pass!