



How to safely manage pests

You've likely seen the small black boxes labeled "Do Not Touch – Poison" lurking outside a business or restaurant. Perhaps you've even used these rodenticides – rodent poisons – around your home or business to control a mouse or vole problem. These poisons carry a heavy price for our natural world, and understanding the alternatives is important for our Town and local wildlife.



Rodenticides pose a risk to your family and pets due to unintentional poisoning and negatively affect the entire food chain of local wildlife. Weakened immune systems in predators of rodents, caused by the toxins present in rodenticides, can be to blame for mange in the local coyote population. Let this be a friendly reminder to [keep your dog on a leash!](#)

What can be used instead of rodenticides?

No matter what you do, pests can still persist, and the best thing that you can do is be informed about what alternatives are available.

- Seal holes that rodents may use to enter your home
- Mouse traps (preferably catch and release)
- Nature's Mace natural pest repellent
- Spices and oils undesirable to rodents: peppermint, cinnamon, cayenne pepper and citronella
- If a rodent problem persists, contact a pest control company that practices Integrated Pest Management to help get to the root of the problem

For a more detailed discussion of options, check out the [avoiding unintentional poisoning webpage](#) for more information from the National Park Service or visit this article from [Friends of Coal Creek](#). Thank you for keeping our Town and wildlife safe!