



## Using Non-toxic Rodent Bait Blocks



Monitoring /tracking baits are more than just Monitoring Tools. Nontoxic rodent bait blocks are used primarily as monitoring tools for intercepting or evaluating a rodent infestation. Gnaw marks on the blocks are a sign of rodent activity. Dyes in the blocks colour rodents' droppings, providing evidence of activity and travel routes. For these reasons, the products are often known as monitoring/tracking baits (MTBs).

The products are the same shape, texture, and flavour as the manufacturer's toxic bait blocks, but without the active ingredient. DETEX contains a bio-fluorescent marker additive which causes rodent droppings to glow under backlight.

Need some reasons to add nontoxic monitoring/tracking bait to your rodent control program?

### Here are 18 to consider:

1. Because they are nontoxic, blocks can be placed in areas where toxic baits may not be permitted. There are minimal safety or regulatory concerns, and no worries about nontarget poisoning or bait translocation.
2. Limiting the use of toxic bait and increased reliance on monitoring for rodent activity appeals to customers who want an integrated pest management component. Bio monitoring for rodents can be part of your "green" service offerings.
3. The presence of rodent tooth marks on nontoxic blocks placed in bait stations and other sites provides positive evidence of a rodent infestation that can be presented to the customer. You can even give blocks to customers for placement so they can check for gnawing activity themselves.
4. Use of nontoxic blocks in a pre-baiting programme helps overcome bait shyness. It gets the rodents used to feeding on an actual bait block, rather than people's food. To make the transition easier when you substitute toxic blocks, its best to use the same manufacturer's rodenticide so that the shape of the block and food base are the same.
5. Nontoxic blocks can be used to pinpoint active feeding sites, telling you where to concentrate your control efforts. Bait sites where you suspect rodent activity and check back a few days later to see which blocks have the most gnawing tooth marks. Make note of these locations because this is where you should place your toxic baits or traps. If the blocks are untouched, don't bother baiting or trapping there. Make more placements in sites with the greatest amount of feeding.
6. You'll use less rodenticide because pre-baiting with MTBs will have located travel routes and harbourage sites where toxic baits can be concentrated, giving the best results and wasting less bait.
7. Nontoxic blocks can help you determine the size of the population by gauging the amount of feeding. Is there a lot of gnawing or only a little? Do you have to replace blocks that were completely eaten? The amount of dyed droppings also gives clues about the size of the infestation.
8. Monitoring blocks can be used to track the movement of rodents through their dyed droppings to help determine where to place traps or toxic bait. You can assess travel routes or runways, travel distance, nest location, and entry points by observing droppings. Place MTBs in ceiling voids to determine whether rodents are active in these spaces.
9. Find rodent entry points using MTBs. To determine whether rodents are moving into a facility from outside, place MTB-baited stations only on the outside. Dyed droppings seen inside will confirm that rodents are moving in from outside.
10. Use the blocks for ongoing monitoring in sensitive accounts. In food facilities and warehouses, for example, use the blocks as early warning signs to identify incoming rodent infestations, and to gauge the success of your controls.
11. Maintain baiting continuity in an ongoing rodenticide baiting program by replacing bait at inactive stations with MTBs. This allows you to keep the station in place and on your map and converts it to a temporary monitoring station ready to revert back to toxic bait when activity is noticed.
12. Use the blocks as part of UV blacklight inspections. We already use UV light to detect rodent urine, but now the droppings of rodents that have fed on DETEX with Biomarker will also glow neon green under UV light. Using a handheld blacklight to track rodent movement gives an added component to inspections.
13. With practice, you can read the gnawing on the block baits to identify the pest and any nontarget feeding. Rodents gnaw at the edges of the block while insects will eat depressions in the block. Mouse gnawing leaves fine lines on the edges while rats gnaw larger and more distinctive tooth marks or grooves.
14. MTBs can help determine whether burrows are active. Use a blacklight to see if droppings in the burrow fluoresce.
15. With practice, you can read the gnawing on the block baits to identify the pest and any nontarget feeding. Rodents gnaw at the edges of the block while insects will eat depressions in the block. Mouse gnawing leaves fine lines on the edges while rats gnaw larger and more distinctive tooth marks or grooves.
16. Survey sewers by wiring the block to the manhole cover or top rung of the ladder and dropping it down onto a ledge.
17. Cockroaches will feed on MTBs and their droppings also glow under blacklight. Use DETEX bait blocks in suspect areas to track the movement of American Cockroaches, through their droppings, to determine whether or not they are coming from sewers or basements.
18. Nontoxic block baits can be wired to fences, pipes, and other objects, or can be glued or nailed to surfaces. Because these blocks are attractive to other animals as food, secure them whenever you can to keep them from being carried away. If you're placing the blocks in front of burrows or in other open areas, you should stake, wire, or glue the blocks to keep them in place.

**Book Now!**

**GENERAL PEST CONTROL (STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL)**

Pretoria 15-17

October 2012

\*

**HACCP**

Pretoria 18 October

2012

This course has been specially designed for pest control operators and deals with issues specific to the pest control industry with regards to food safety and integrated pest management, and will give you the specialised training and certification needed.

\*

**TERMITES & WOOD DESTROYING ORGANISMS**

Pretoria 22-24

October 2012

This unique course gives you two fields for the price of one! R4150

**UPCOMING**

**COURSES**

**GENERAL PEST CONTROL PROGRAM**

15-17 OCTOBER 2012

PRETORIA

12-14 NOVEMBER 2012

PRETORIA

10-12 DECEMBER 2012

PRETORIA

**WEED CONTROL**

6-8 NOVEMBER 2012

PRETORIA

**TERMITE & WOOD DESTROYING ORGANISMS**

22-24 OCTOBER 2012

PRETORIA

**FUMIGATION**

3-5 DECEMBER 2012

PRETORIA

**PLANT PEST & DISEASES**

5-7 NOVEMBER 2012

PRETORIA

**WOOD PRESERVATION OF UTILITY POLES**

22-24 OCTOBER 2012

PRETORIA

**HACCP (FOOD SAFETY) R890**

18 OCTOBER 2012

PRETORIA

**PMA COURSES ARE ACCREDITED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRISETA & SAQA**

FET REGISTRATION NO:

2012/FE07/001

**Struggling to complete your pest control qualification? Contact Us!**

PEST CONTROL TRAINING ACADEMY / SCHOOL

Professional Services Offered:

training of pest control operators | practical assessments of pest control operators | mentoring of pest control operators | supervision of trainee pest control operators | pest control helpline | pest identification service | food safety / HACCP training and auditing | food safety / PRP registers | ISPM 15 training and certification | green pest management / control | pest management operations manuals

29 Hazelwood Rd Hazelwood, Pretoria, Gauteng | Phone: 0861999900 | Fax: 0123467453