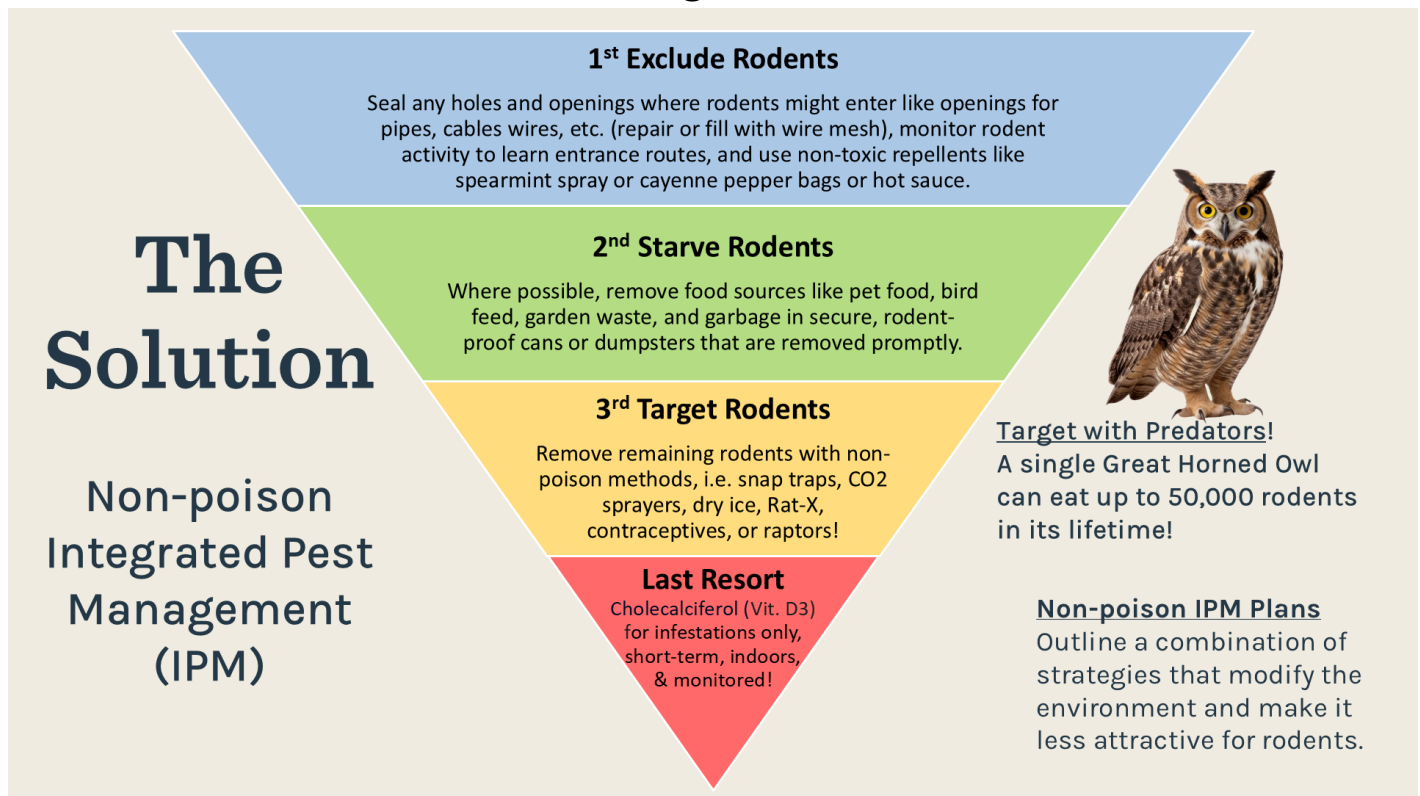




Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Proven-effective Rodent Control

Without Anticoagulant Rodenticides



EXCLUSION

Integrated pest management (IPM) starts with exclusion – efforts to keep rodents out of buildings and reduce shelter (harborage).

- ❖ Sealing gaps and holes with steel wool, cement, galvanized steel mesh, or hardware cloth
- ❖ Trenching and Screening (burying galvanized steel mesh and or hardware cloth around foundations and porches to block tunneling)
- ❖ Capping chimneys and covering vents with hardware cloth
- ❖ Sealing external doors with rodent-proof door sweeps
- ❖ Trimming vegetation and ivy away from buildings to minimize shelter (harborage)
- ❖ Using scented deterrents around foundation, vehicle engines, and gardens
- ❖ Monitoring rodent activity with non-toxic baits such as DETEX BLOX with Lumitrack
- ❖ Elevating animal enclosures and/or compost (18 inches) to avoid burrowing

- ❖ Installing layer of concrete, rat slab, to block tunneling, if appropriate

SANITATION & CONTRACEPTIVES

Sanitation is an absolutely critical component to integrated pest management (IPM) – efforts to eliminate rodent food sources reduces their ability to multiply and interest in entering the property.

- ❖ Providing rodent-resistant trash barrels, bins, and dumpsters, and keeping them securely covered
 - ❖ Disposing of garbage regularly to prevent overflowing bins
 - ❖ Implementing a community education program to encourage good trash management
 - ❖ Ensuring grills, food service equipment, and kitchens are well maintained and clean
 - ❖ Limiting food in classrooms and offices
 - ❖ Instituting a “no-drops” garden policy to keep food off the ground, harvesting ripe produce quickly, and providing closed composters (or cement slabs under large commercial compost piles)
 - ❖ Removing exterior pet food and limit filling open livestock feeders to twice a day
 - ❖ Using “no millet, pre-hulled” bird seed to limit ground litter, using a catch tray under feeder to limit drops, only using a small amount of seed at a time, and/or bringing in feeders at night
 - ❖ Rodent contraceptives to limit rodent fertility such as Evolve or ContraPest
 - ❖ Inspections to enforce sanitary regulations and fines for non-compliance after multiple violations
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TARGETING WITH LETHAL METHODS

The final step in integrated pest management (IPM) is targeting the remaining rodents – reducing their number with lethal methods. Targeting rodents who have become pests because they are inside a building or at significant infestation numbers outdoors even after exclusion and sanitation efforts.

- ❖ Creating raptor-friendly habitat by reducing the use of SGARs and/or providing raptor nesting houses and platforms
- ❖ Gassing rat burrows with CO via BurrowRX machines and/or CO2 tanks
- ❖ Snap traps
- ❖ Mechanical traps with pistons such as A24, SMART Pipe, and Sentinel RCS
- ❖ Rat-X or Mouse-X with corn gluten meal as the active ingredient
- ❖ Rat Ice which is dry ice (frozen CO2) with an EPA-approved label and only sold by Dry Ice Corp in Rockland, MA

- ❖ Cholecalciferol (Vit D3) such as d-CON, Terad3, CADET All-Weather BLOX, or Selontra, only recommended by Mass Audubon as a last resort, short-term & indoors, for serious infestations

NON-SGAR RODENT CONTROL EFFECTIVENESS

First there are no scientific studies that prove SGARs reduce rodent populations. Rat poison has been used since the early 1800's. The first anticoagulant rodenticide started being used in the 1950's when Warfarin went mainstream. Sales of rodenticides have increased annually since the 1950's, yet the rat populations in urban areas have sharply increased over that time period. New York City has seen an 800% increase in rats since the 1950's despite deploying a massive amount of rodenticides to combat them. If 70+ years of poisoning rats has done nothing but rapidly increase the population, maybe it's time to rethink our strategy.

Over [40 towns and cities](#) in Massachusetts are successfully controlling rodents without anticoagulant rodenticides including Lowell, Cambridge, and Boston. “Boston property owners/renters seem to believe the rat poison bait boxes placed around property and area perimeters will compensate and/or substitute for good trash practices. Sound science research, however, has shown this practice, without the elimination of the rat’s food sources, **essentially 100% ineffective.**” - Dr. Robert M. Corrigan, Urban Rodentologist, [Boston Rat Action Plan](#)

Towns and cities are reporting decreasing rodent complaints as they implement non-SGAR Integrated Pest Management plans.

1. [Erin Gendron, a member of Lowell's Board of Health](#), testified that “In 2024 school year, over a dozen Lowell public schools failed inspections due to evidence of mice. In 2025, that number has dropped to just 1.”
2. [City of Marlborough 10-07-2025 meeting minutes](#), “Director Dinwoodie reported that the department received only 3 reports of rodent sightings during the month of September, bringing the year-to-date total to 55. This compares to 269 such reports by this time last year (September 2024).”
3. [Somerville Rodent Control Updates presentation](#), by Alicia Privett, Environmental Health Coordinator, and Colin Zeigler, Environmental Health Manager, sharing 311 Rat Report data showing a decrease since 2021 when the city began a comprehensive non-SGAR Integrated Pest Management program.
4. [Michele Grzenda, Lincoln's Conservation Director testified \(2:24\)](#) that “Lincoln's facility manager, Brandon Kelly has confirmed that snap traps have met the town's needs. Mister Kelly stated this year that there has been a significant decrease in the reporting of visual instances of rodents present and a decrease in frequency of needing to empty the traps.”

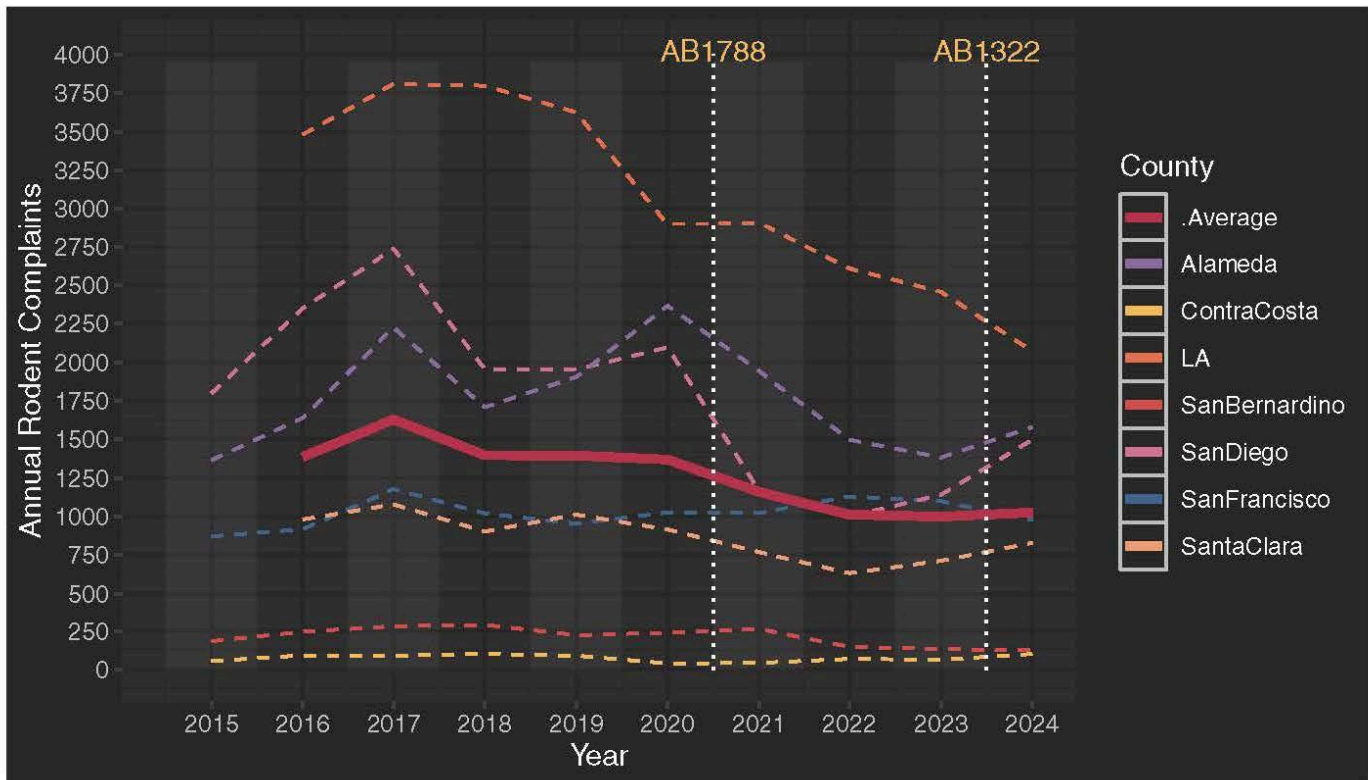
Newton has not used anticoagulant rodenticides on municipal property in more than a decade! And Josh Morse, Newton’s Public Buildings Commissioner says, “**There are plenty of alternatives to SGAR's, and many of them are far more effective.**” “...**SGAR's are proven to not actually result in a decrease in the rat population**, there's no end to their use. Therefore, if you do use them, you'll always use them. Using a

combination of prevention, birth control, gassing burrows, and other non-SGAR options will actually reduce the rat population to a level where the predators can help maintain a reasonable rat population.”

Some pest control companies are ending their use of SGARs for rodent control! Rick Kelly, owner of Banner Pest Control, shared in his [Open Letter](#), “[IPM} strategies have proven just as effective as SGARs in real-world applications. When implemented properly, they are also cost-comparable, especially when factoring in long-term control, reduced risk to wildlife, and improved public perception. I understand that some towns are weighing environmental benefits against perceived cost or operational changes. With nearly two decades in the field, I can confidently say that transitioning away from SGARs is not only feasible—it’s preferable. All it takes is thoughtful planning, education, and a slight shift in strategy. The results are safer, more sustainable, and broadly supported by communities.”

Others are doing this too... British Columbia permanently banned SGARs in 2023, after a temporary ban in 2021. California passed a statewide SGAR moratorium in 2020 & 2023 expanded it to include FGARs. Over the five years since, CA has had a decrease in rodent complaints!

California’s Decrease in Rodent Complaints After the Moratoriums on Anticoagulant Rodenticide



Data was obtained through California Public Record Act (PRA) requests issued to each county's Public Health and/or Environmental Health Department. PRAs requested all public rodent complaints received from January 1st 2015 to December 31st 2024. Contra Costa and LA county did not collect/record rodent complaint data in 2015. Average is calculated for years 2016 to 2024, due to missing data. Rodent complaint data is used as a proxy/correlate for rodent population size.

COST COMPARISONS OF SGARs vs ALTERNATIVES

Check out [this Info](#) from Josh Morse, Newton's Public Buildings Commissioner who has not used SGARs on municipal property in over a decade.

Here is some info on the cost difference between SGAR's and a common alternative. Cottonseed Evolve and ContraPest are at about the same price point. The Cottonseed Evolve is priced at \$80 for 6 lbs wholesale or \$13.33 per pound. The usage depends on the consumption. To compare, commonly used SGAR's are \$35 for 4 lb or \$8.75 per pound.

While the unit cost is lower for SGAR's, I offer the following:

- ContraPest is a sweet high fat fluid, and rats must consume 1-2 ounces of fluid per day. If you have a dumpster or trash food source with SGAR's next to it, rats are unlikely to consume the poison when food options are right there. However, with Contrapest, you're providing a drinking fluid source right there for the rats which means it's far more likely to be consumed than SGAR's.
- If you are trying to avoid secondary poisoning to pets or predators then you either need to remove all dead poisoned rats yourself, or you need to pay the pest control company to do it which would add to the SGAR approach significantly.
- 70+ years of using SGAR's with an exponential increase in their use over time has only resulted in a drastic increase in rodent populations. Therefore, I don't know how SGAR's can be considered an effective solution.
- SGAR's do result in killing predators which helps promote an increased rat population.
- Where SGAR's are proven to not actually result in a decrease in the rat population, there's no end to their use. Therefore if you do use them, you'll always use them.
- Using a combination of prevention, birth control, gassing burrows, and other non-SGAR options will actually reduce the rat population to a level where the predators can help maintain a reasonable rat population. This means that communities could eventually stop needing to use birth control products and turn the management over to the hawks, owls, and other predators.