

How You Can Help Reduce SGAR Use

Organize Your Neighbors

Spread the word about the harms of SGARs by launching or joining a campaign in your hometown. We can help recruit and provide promotional materials and guidance.

Contact Your Public Works Department

Learn what methods your local government uses to control pests in town halls, schools, cemeteries, rec centers and more. Share info about safe alternatives to poison.

Connect With Elected Officials

Discuss a bylaw amendment to reduce SGAR use with your town select board members or city councilors.

Join Climate and Nature Champions

Join our statewide network of grassroots advocates. We'll connect you with campaigns and organizations working to reduce the use of SGARs and other opportunities to advocate for the environment.



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Mass Audubon's Rescue Raptors Campaign

Mass Audubon is working to protect raptors and other wildlife by reducing the use of rodenticides across Massachusetts. To succeed, we need you to get involved!



[massaudubon.org/
rescueraptors](https://massaudubon.org/rescueraptors)

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Rescue Raptors



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Raptors, foxes, coyotes, and other predators keep our ecosystems in balance. But second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) harm thousands of these creatures in Massachusetts each year. Learn how these poisons hurt wildlife and how you can help organize and advocate to reduce their use in your community.



What are SGARs?

Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) are a class of poisons that prevent blood clotting.

When an animal ingests a lethal dose of an SGAR, it dies slowly, making it an easy target for predators. This makes SGARs harmful for predators and pets—when they prey on poisoned rodents, they develop painful and often fatal internal bleeding.

While federal law bans the retail sale of SGARs, these poisons remain legal—and widely used—by licensed pest control professionals in Massachusetts. SGARs come in labeled black bait boxes & include:

- Brodifacoum (Brand names Mouser, Ratak, Talon)
- Bromadiolone (Maki Mini Blok, Contrac)
- Difenacoum (Di-Kill)
- Difethialone (First Strike, Hombre)



SGARs Harm Our Wildlife

Veterinarians at the New England Wildlife Center report treating hundreds of raptors, foxes, and coyotes for critical SGAR poisoning each year. A recent study found that 100% of Red-tailed Hawks tested at a wildlife clinic in Massachusetts had SGARs in their bloodstreams.

Even pets are often harmed—each year, MSPCA Angell Veterinary Hospital treats dozens of dogs, cats, and other household pets for SGAR poisoning.

We Can Control Rodents Without Poison

Rodenticides aren't a long-term solution to rodent problems. Rodents will keep coming back as long as they can find food and an entry route. Here's how to reduce rodent populations without rodenticides:

Exclude Them

Rodents can fit through holes as small as a quarter. Keep them out of your space by filling all holes and closing gaps under doors and between windows.

Starve Them

Rodents won't stick around if there's nothing to eat! Remove food sources by covering garbage cans, harvesting garden produce quickly, and never leaving pet food out for long periods.

Target Them

Without food or access, rodents won't last long. But if you must get rid of remaining rodents quickly, use non-poison methods like snap-traps or electro traps.