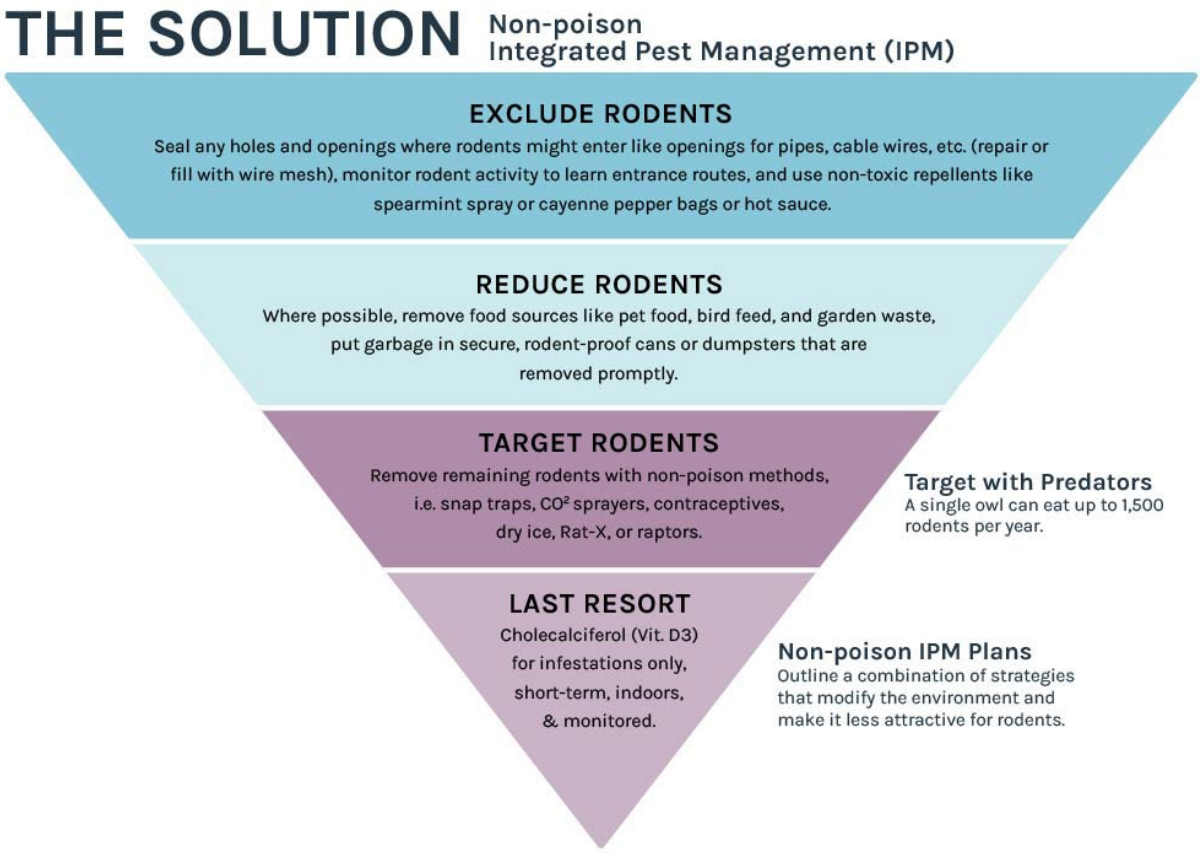
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Proven-effective Rodent Control Without Anticoagulant Rodenticides

Mass Audubon



EXCLUDE RODENTS

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

- Seal gaps and holes with steel wool, cement, galvanized steel mesh, or hardware cloth
- Trench and Screen (bury galvanized steel mesh and or hardware cloth around foundations and porches to block tunneling)
- Cap chimneys and cover vents with hardware cloth
- Seal external doors with rodent-proof door sweeps
- Trim vegetation and ivy away from buildings to minimize shelter (harborage)
- Use scented deterrents around foundation, vehicle engines, and gardens
- Monitor rodent activity with non-toxic baits such as DETEX BLOX with Lumitrack
- Elevate animal enclosures and/or compost (18 inches) to avoid burrowing
- Install layer of concrete, rat slab, to block tunneling, if appropriate

Adapted from Mass Audubon's Rescue Raptors Toolkit: https://bit.ly/RescueRaptorsToolkit

REDUCE RODENTS

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.

- Provide rodent-resistant trash barrels, bins, and dumpsters, and keep them securely covered
- Dispose of garbage regularly to prevent overflowing bins
- Implement a community education program to encourage good trash management
- Ensure grills, food service equipment, and kitchens are well maintained and clean
- Limit food in classrooms and offices
- Institute a “no-drops” garden policy to keep food off the ground, harvest ripe produce quickly, and provide closed composters (or cement slabs under large commercial compost piles)
- Remove exterior pet food and limit filling open livestock feeders to twice a day
- Use “no millet, pre-hulled” bird seed to limit ground litter, use a catch tray under feeder to limit drops, only use a small amount of seed at a time, and/or bring in feeders at night
- Inspections to enforce sanitary regulations and fines for non-compliance after multiple violations
- Use rodent contraceptives to limit rodent fertility such as Evolve, ContraPest, or WISDOM Good Bites

TARGET RODENTS

The final step in integrated pest management (IPM) is targeting remaining rodents, inside of buildings or at significant infestation numbers outdoors, with lethal methods.

- Create raptor-friendly habitat by reducing the use of SGARs and/or providing raptor nesting houses and platforms
- Gas 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

LAST RESORT

- 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