



Guide to the Safe Use of 1080 Poison

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This Farmnote provides a summary of the Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of 1080 as it applies to landholders. The complete Code of Practice is available on request from Department of Agriculture offices.

Sodium fluoroacetate (1080) is a highly poisonous substance that is used to control agricultural and environmental pests. Law restricts the use of 1080.

Misuse endangers you and your family, your pets, the public, farm animals and wildlife and may restrict the long-term availability of this poison.

- Baits will only be available from S7 retail outlets.
- Only authorised Department of Agriculture officers will authorise you to purchase baits.
- Only people trained in the safe use and handling of 1080 will be authorised to handle or lay 1080 baits.
- Neighbours must be given 72 hours written notice of your intention to lay 1080 baits.
- Baits can only be laid on the land approved for baiting.
- Warning signs must be displayed while baits are exposed and for one month afterwards.
- Dead animals found during and after the poisoning program and unused baits must be collected and destroyed by burning or deep burial.

Who may have 1080 baits?

Authorised landholders will be able to purchase and lay baits containing 1080. Bait products will only be supplied by commercial S7 retail outlets.

Training for authorisation

An authorised Department of Agriculture officer will provide training in the safe use of 1080 and its security. Unless training is satisfactorily completed, 1080 baits cannot be supplied.

Training will be presented in a way to ensure that you have a thorough knowledge and understanding of;

- legislative requirements for 1080 control in Western Australia,
- requirements when applying to lay 1080 baits, the procedures necessary and notification required to carry out a baiting operation,
- the signs of poisoning and appropriate first aid treatment,
- requirements for safe storage and transportation of 1080 baits;
- requirements for notification of accidents and incidents;
- the correct techniques for effective control of the target species.

Only trained people are permitted to handle or lay the baits. If an employee or agent is going to lay baits on your behalf, they must also be trained to a level of competency appropriate to the level of use.

How to obtain 1080

It is necessary for you to submit a 1080 Baiting Application Form to an authorised officer of the Department of Agriculture. The officer will carry out a risk assessment of the baiting proposal and if approved will issue an Approval Form and a 1080 Authorisation Voucher (see *Documentation* below).

Baiting approval

Before they can approve your application to receive the baits, the authorising officer needs to know:

- what the problem is;
- the possible risks to the public, domestic stock, pets and wildlife as a result of the baiting (an inspection may need to be carried out by an authorised Department of Agriculture officer to check on these risks);
- what security is available for storage and transport of baits;
- that you will notify your neighbours in writing of the baiting program; and
- that you have been trained to handle and lay the bait in a safe manner.

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Agriculture and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

When baits will not be supplied

Approval for baiting will NOT be given to:

- People who live in urban areas or on properties in areas where the use of 1080 baits poses an unacceptably high risk.
- Landholders in areas zoned "Special Rural", unless part of a coordinated community-based program or where pest animals are causing serious economic damage that cannot be controlled by alternative means.
- Landholders where there is an unacceptable risk in the transporting, storing or handling of the baits. Where baits cannot be issued, they may be laid under contract or alternative control measures may be suggested.

Public and environmental safety

An authorised Department of Agriculture officer will conduct the following risk assessment checks whenever you make an application for Baiting Approval. These checks must be made to ensure the safety of the public and the environment. If safety cannot be assured, 1080 will not be supplied.

Checks to be made for all 1080 applications

- Baits are to be laid in accordance with the Directions for Use and the registered label of the product to be used.
- There are no sensitive areas or known hazards on or adjacent to the property to be baited.
- There is no risk that poisoned animals will wander off the baited property.
- Baits can be positioned so that they are inaccessible to non-target species in the vicinity. This will require that domestic pets are restrained during the baiting and that livestock have been removed from paddocks where rabbit baiting is to occur.

Additional checks to be made in higher risk areas

Special rural zones, hobby farms, and farms and reserves close to town sites and closely settled areas present more danger to the public, wandering pets and the environment than other agricultural holdings. 1080 baits will normally be issued only if:

- The proposed baiting is part of a coordinated community program where a number of neighbours combine their baiting for maximum effect
- The baiting will have strategic or essential individual protection value, if it is not part of a community effort.
- 1080 must be shown to be the appropriate control technique. Alternative, lower risk methods (fencing, fumigation, warren destruction, and biological controls) or other poisons (e.g. pindone) must be used if practicable.

- People and animals have limited access to the baited area.
- Predator baits are secured or buried. Eggs must always be buried.

Documentation

On approval, the authorising officer will issue you with a 1080 Baiting Risk Assessment and Approval Form. This form contains the following important information:

- Period of time within which the baits must be used.
- Details of the type and quantity of 1080 baits approved.
- Any additional conditions that may be required to manage the risks associated with the use of baits.

1080 baits can only be laid on the land described on the Baiting Application and as approved by an authorised officer of the Department of Agriculture. Baits cannot be used in any other area or on any other property or for any other purpose without Department of Agriculture authority.

The authorising officer will also give you a 1080 Authorisation Voucher to enable you to obtain baits from an S7 retailer.

Retailers are not able to supply 1080 without production of a 1080 Authorisation Voucher. The person receiving the baits must be able to provide proof of identification

Notification of neighbours

You must inform neighbours in writing at least 72 hours prior to baiting of where and when the baiting is to take place. Also warn anyone living on your property or visiting it.

This information must include details of where and when baiting is to take place, the type of bait to be used and a warning of the risk posed to stock and domestic pets.

When coordinating a community program to control declared animals, you may be able to use alternative ways of informing neighbours, such as letter drops, newspapers, notices and local radio. However, this can only be done with the approval of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Agriculture or his delegated officer.

Transporting and storing 1080

Effective security is required when transporting and storing 1080 bait material. Keep all baits under lock and key and in the original container until you need to use them. Baits should also be kept out of sight and separate from foodstuffs.

Storage

When you receive the 1080 baits on your property you must lock them in a secure chemical storage area with appropriate warning signs. If the amount is small, it should be locked in a secure cupboard inside a locked shed to which appropriate warning signs are attached. Refer to the label and Directions for Use for specific requirements of 1080 products.

Do not store bait after the date of expiry on your Baiting Approval Form. Any unused bait after this date must be deep buried or destroyed, not stored. If you have been prevented from baiting by bad weather, ask the officer for an extended expiry date. Directions of Use documentation accompanying

the 1080 product will indicate more specific requirements relating to the location of burial.

Laying the poison and using warning signs

You must use 1080 precisely as instructed on the label, the Directions of Use and on any written information provided by the authorising officer on the 1080 Baiting Approval form.

This includes such factors as the appropriate personal protective equipment to wear, the rate of lay, methods of laying the bait, bait placement and location.

Make sure you are familiar with all these requirements before using any bait material.

Handling 1080 baits

When handling 1080 oats and dried meat baits, you should wear impervious gloves and protective clothing. Read the label and Directions for Use. In your training, you will receive specific information relating to the product you are using.

Do not eat, drink or smoke when laying the baits as you could absorb 1080.

When you have finished, wash down all surfaces and containers as well as your gloves. Remove your contaminated clothing and thoroughly wash them and your hands.

First aid for 1080 poisoning

As 1080 is an extremely toxic poison, and because there is no antidote, there is limited treatment for 1080 poisoning in humans. However to improve survival chances from accidental poisoning the following should be implemented.

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre (phone 13 11 26).

If bait material is swallowed, give large quantities of water and induce vomiting.

If skin contact occurs, remove clothing, remove contaminated clothing and wash skin thoroughly. Remove from the contaminated area.

If in eyes, hold eyes open, flood with water for at least 15 minutes and see a doctor.

Additional information is on the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) available from the supplier.

Warning Signs

Signs must be displayed during and for at least one month after baiting. They must be placed at main entrances to the baited property and at other strategic points, for example, in the vicinity of the baits and on fence posts.

Disposal of animals found dead

During baiting, and for 14 days after all bait has been removed or eaten, all dead animals (rabbits and others) found on both the baited and adjacent properties must be disposed of by burial or burning. No skins may be taken and the meat must

not be used for consumption by humans or animals. This is necessary otherwise these carcasses may become a secondary poisoning hazard to domestic pets, wildlife or humans.

On completion of the baiting operation

When the bait material has been in place for the length of time stated on the Baiting Approval Form, cover up the trail if you are baiting rabbits, **OR** collect any fox baits that have not been taken

Disposal of 1080 containers

Any containers that were used to package 1080 products should be buried or burned after use and not re-used. Refer to Directions of use for approved location of burial sites.

Never:

- keep bait for future use;
- take it to another property;
- give it to another person;
- use it in any place other than originally agreed;
- use it for any purpose other than originally agreed;
- use the poison container for another purpose.

Any misuse of 1080 will be reported to the Health Department of WA and further supply of 1080 will be suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

Follow up

1080 baiting is an integral part of any pest management program. To get lasting benefit from baiting you should also use other control methods following poisoning. For example, follow up by shooting survivors and fumigating or ripping warrens and dens.

Your local Agriculture Protection Officer can give you advice on these programs.

Important final words

If you use 1080 in accordance with instructions, it is an efficient and effective way of controlling declared animals.

If used incorrectly or carelessly, it can have disastrous effects.

Do not take your responsibility lightly. You must take every available care to ensure that the baits are used safely and do not end up in the wrong place or in the wrong hands.

The continued availability of 1080 as a control method for animal pests is vitally important for the agricultural and pastoral industries of this State.

Further reading

Code of Practice on the Safe Use and Management of 1080.
Health Department of Western Australia – Environmental
Health Service.

Miscellaneous Publication 11/2002 '1080 Summary
information'

Farmnote No. 28/2002 '1080: characteristics and use'

Farmnote No. 89/2001 'Options for rabbit control'

Farmnote No. 88/2001 'Landholder use of 1080 one shot oat
rabbit poisoning'

Farmnote No. 90/2001 'Fox baiting'

Farmnote No. 91/2001 'Options for fox control'

Farmnote No. 111/2000 'Rabbit warren and harbourage
destruction'

Farmnote No. 119/2000 'Fumigation for rabbit control'

Farmnote No. 96/1999 'Rabbit calicivirus disease (RCD)'

Further information

Contact your local Agriculture Protection Officer.