



Farmnote

Guide to the safe use of 1080 poison

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This farmnote provides a general summary of a landholder's obligations under the Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of 1080 in Western Australia. All 1080 users are urged to become familiar with the complete Code of Practice, which is available on request from Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) offices, or from the DAFWA website (see below). You also need to read the Directions for Use thoroughly in case these have been recently changed.

Sodium fluoroacetate (1080) is a highly poisonous substance that is used to control agricultural and environmental pests. A number of Acts, Regulations and other legislative instruments restrict the use of 1080 in WA.

Misuse of 1080 products can endanger you, and your family, your pets, the public, farm animals and wildlife, and may restrict the long-term availability of this essential vertebrate pesticide.

- Bait products are only available from licensed S7 retail outlets.
- Only authorised Department of Agriculture and Food officers can 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 during baiting, and for one month after baiting is complete.
- 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?

Only trained and authorised landholders are able to purchase and lay baits containing 1080. Bait products containing 1080 are generally only supplied by licensed, commercial S7 retail outlets.

Training for authorisation

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

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

- legislative requirements regarding 1080 use in Western Australia;
- requirements when applying to lay 1080 baits, including the procedures necessary, and the notification required to carry out a baiting operation;
- the symptoms 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 1080 baits. If an employee or a nominated agent is going to lay baits on your behalf, then 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 together with a map of the property that indicates where the 1080 product is to be used and including details of potential associated risks e.g. residences, public access

Important disclaimer

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roads etc to an authorised officer of the DAFWA. 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 your application to receive the baits can be approved, the authorising officer needs to know:

- what pest you wish to control, and where;
- the possible risks of the proposed baiting operation to the public, domestic stock, pets and wildlife (an inspection *may* need to be carried out by an authorised DAFWA officer to assess these risks);
- what security is available for the storage and transport of baits;
- that you will notify your neighbours in writing of the baiting program. This may be done by letter, e-mail or fax; and
- that you have been trained to handle and lay the requested 1080 product in a safe manner in accordance with the Directions for Use.

There are *three risk categories* associated with the risk assessment: *minimal risk*—where 1080 baits can be used in accordance with the label Directions for Use with no additional precautions; *moderate risk*—where some potential risk may occur but this can be overcome with additional precautions; and *extreme risk*—where approval to bait is refused because the use of 1080 products is likely to pose an unacceptable risk which can not be adequately managed with additional precautions.

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 your baiting operation forms part of a coordinated community-based control program, or where pest animals are causing serious economic damage that cannot be controlled by other means.
- Landholders where there is an unacceptable risk associated with transporting, storing or the handling of 1080 baits. Where baits cannot be issued directly to a landholder, they may be laid under contract (e.g. licensed pest control operator, authorised DAFWA staff) in some circumstances, or alternative control measures may be suggested.

Public and environmental safety

An authorised DAFWA officer will conduct 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 products will not be supplied.

Checks to be made for all 1080 applications

- Baits are to be laid in accordance with the registered label Directions for Use for the product to be used.
- There are no sensitive areas or known hazards on or adjacent to the property to be baited.
- There are no unmanageable risks associated with poisoned animals wandering off the baited property.
- Baits can be positioned so that they pose minimal/no risk to non-target species. This will require domestic pets to be restrained during the baiting period, and that all 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 potential 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 an appropriate control technique. Alternative, lower risk methods (fencing, fumigation, warren destruction, and biological controls) or other poisons (e.g. pindone) must be considered where practical.
- People and non-target animals have limited access to the baited area.
- Predator baits are secured or buried in a shallow depression. Eggs must always be buried in a shallow depression or covered with leaf litter. This reduces potential take by non-target species.

Documentation

On approval, the authorising DAFWA 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 any identified potential 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 DAFWA officer. Baits cannot be used in any other area or on any other property or for any other purpose without DAFWA approval/authorisation.

The authorising officer will also give you a 1080 Authorisation Voucher to enable you to obtain the bait product from a licensed S7 retailer.

Retailers are not permitted to supply 1080 without you producing the original of the 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 (letter, e-mail, fax) at least 72 hours prior to baiting. You must also warn anyone living on or visiting your property. Keep a record of all notifications.

Neighbour notification must include details of where and when baiting will take place, the type of bait to be used, and a warning of the potential 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 Director General of DAFWA or their delegated officer.

Warning Signs

Warning 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 appropriate strategic points (for example, on the fence and gate posts near the baited area).

Transporting and storing 1080

Effective security is required when transporting and storing 1080 baits. 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 of bait received 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 Directions for Use for the specific requirements of each 1080 product.

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, and NOT stored. If you have been prevented from baiting by bad weather, ask the DAFWA officer for an extended expiry date. Directions for Use documentation accompanying the 1080 product will indicate more specific requirements relating to the destruction of surplus 1080 baits.

Laying poison bait

You must use 1080 precisely as instructed on the label Directions for Use, and any written information and other conditions stipulated by the authorising officer on the 1080 Baiting Approval Form.

You need to ensure that you use appropriate personal protective equipment, you understand the rate of lay, the methods of laying the bait and bait placement, and where baiting is to occur, including any exclusion zones.

Make sure you are familiar with all these requirements before using any 1080 product.

Handling 1080 baits

When handling 1080 oats and dried meat baits, you should wear impervious gloves and protective clothing. Read the label Directions for Use carefully. During the training undertaken when you apply for baits, you will receive specific information relating to the product you wish to use.

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

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

If poisoning occurs immediately call 000 to request an ambulance!

- **Call 13 11 26 for Poisons Information**
- **Remove any contaminated clothing from the patient**
- **Wash any effected skin thoroughly through free flowing clean water.**
- **Do *not* induce vomiting (risk of choking)**
- **Do *not* administer anything by mouth unless directed to do so by medical staff.**
- **Place the patient into the recovery position to maintain their airway.**
- **If the patient stops breathing only administer resuscitation if you can ensure that there is no risk to the rescuer of ingesting the poison from the patient, (e.g. through mouth to mouth contact). A suitable barrier mask should be used if applying resuscitation. Be aware that the patient may have convulsions.**
- **Reassure the patient and keep them calm. If possible keep the patient in a quiet, dark place (as they may be highly sensitive to noise and light).**
- **Wait for medical staff to arrive or if this is not possible take patient to doctor/hospital as soon as possible.**
- **Make sure the 1080 product container, product 'Directions for Use', and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) are available to medical staff.**

Disposal of animals found dead

During baiting, and for 14 days after all bait has been removed or eaten, all dead animals (target, and other species) 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 other animals. This is necessary as these carcasses can represent 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**, where practical, collect dried meat 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 for Use for approved locations of suitable 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 approved;
- use it for any purpose other than originally approved;
- use the poison container for any other purpose.

Any misuse of 1080 will be reported to the Department of Health, Western Australia, 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 achieve lasting benefit from baiting you should also consider other control methods following poisoning. For example, follow up by shooting any survivors, and fumigating or ripping warrens and dens.

Your local DAFWA Biosecurity Officer can provide advice on these approaches, and integrated pest management.

Important final words

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

There may be disastrous consequences if 1080 products are used incorrectly or carelessly.

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, and the biodiversity of Western Australia, and its ongoing availability is dependent upon all users using 1080 products safely and responsibly.

Further reading

Code of Practice on the Safe Use and Management of 1080. Department of Health, and Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Environment and Conservation. April 2009.

Further information

Contact your local Department of Agriculture and Food, or telephone Freecall 1800 084 881, or email info@agric.wa.gov.au. Additional publications on 1080 use can be obtained by visiting the Department's website at: www.agric.wa.gov.au