

## Passing of pipes/cables through walls

Improperly sealed passing of pipes/cables through walls can serve as entry point of rodents into premises. The passings can be sealed with metal plate, barbed wire balls or cement.



Fig.6.19 Passing of pipes through wall sealed with cement

## Vegetation in planters

Regularly trimming of flowerbeds and planters can expose the soil surface discouraging rodent burrowing and make inspection of rat burrow and accumulated refuse easier. Planting of creeping plants should be avoided. The planting of high rise and less dense vegetation can also help expose the soil surface.



Fig.6.20 Well trimmed flowerbed



Fig.6.21 High rise vegetation exposing the soil surface

## Cracks and crevices found on ground/other structures

Filling of cracks and crevices by cement can deprive rodents of harbouraging places.



Fig.6.22 Cracks and crevices between rocks paved

## Articles around house

Rodents do not like exposing themselves in open areas. Clearing of articles around house would prevent rodent from establishing its harbourages near the house and make the area unfavourable to rodent activities.

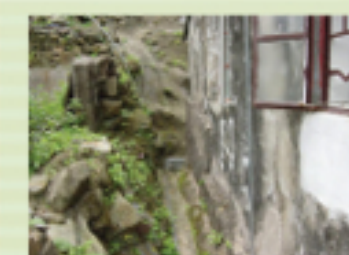


Fig.6.23 Dense vegetation and articles around house cleared.

## Direct Rodent Control

Trapping and rodenticide treatment are methods of direct rodent control. Direct rodent control aims at immediate suppression of rodent population. However, the result is short-term if effort on rodent prevention is not carried out at the same time and sustained. Rodents may carry ectoparasites on their bodies. Disinfestation of ectoparasites of rodents should be carried out before or in parallel to the implementation of rodent control operations whenever necessary.

### Trapping

Trapping is the use of traps to control rodents. Cage traps (Figure 6.24), break-back traps (Figure 6.25) and glue traps are commonly used traps. Baits are used with the traps to increase the effectiveness of the trapping exercise. Trapping is suitable in areas where rodenticide treatment is unfavourable. However, the efficiency of trapping to rodent disinfestations is low since relatively more manpower is required. Therefore, trapping is usually only executed to cope with disperse and minor rodent infestations.



Fig. 6.24 (Left) Rodent cage trap

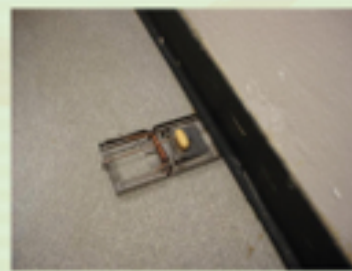


Fig 6.25 (Right) Break back trap

Set cage traps need to be attended everyday to check the status of the traps as well as the freshness of the baits. Trapped rodents should be handled promptly and humanely with particular care so as to avoid contraction of any rodent borne diseases. Rodent trapped in cage trap could be killed by opening the door of the trap a little bit and breaking the neck of the escaping rodent with quick close of the door of the trap. Pest control company should be appointed for providing professional services on trapping rodents. Reference should be made to the procedures of 'Disposal of Dead Rodent' of this handbook.



# Establishing and Maintaining a Rodent-free Area

The following points should be noted when carrying out rodent trapping:

- Handle the trap with care to avoid getting injured;
- Lay as many traps as possible at the same time to enhance the trapping result;
- Wear protective clothing (such as gloves, mask, etc.) when handling rodent traps;
- Alert people in the premises of the trapping exercise;
- Set cage trap perpendicularly to vertical surface, with opening of the cage trap facing the vertical surface (Fig. 6.24);
- Check the sensitivity of the cage trap before setting the trap to ensure effective triggering of the trap door;
- Make sure the cage trap can successfully shut when it is triggered;
- Set break-back trap perpendicularly to vertical surface, with the treadle or the opening of trap facing the vertical surface& (Fig. 6.25);
- Set the traps either both facing a vertical surface or with openings (Fig 6.26 & 6.27)/ treadles facing the outside, if two traps needed to be set in a single location;



Fig 6.26 (Left) Two cage traps set in a single location.

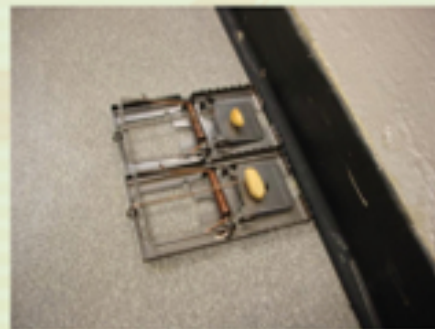


Fig 6.27 (Right) Two break-back traps set in a single location.

- Remove all food sources in the premises when executing rodent trapping exercise for increasing the attractiveness of the bait in the traps;
- Replace fermented or decayed bait with fresh bait; and
- Disinfect cage traps or any items contaminated by rodents with general household disinfectant after the trapping exercise.

## Rodenticide Treatment

Rodenticide treatment is the application of poison, usually with bait attractive to rodent, for the rodent to take up resulting in intoxication. The rodenticide registered in Hong Kong are mainly anticoagulants with chronic effect. Anticoagulant rodenticide can cause death of rodent in about 3 to 7 days after intake of adequate amount by the animal. Pest control company should be appointed for providing professional and safe rodenticide treatment.

To maintain an area rodent-free, permanent baiting is necessary. Permanent baiting stations set at the boundary as well as penetration points of an area can protect the area to be maintained as rodent-free during and after the main rodent disinfestations operation by killing rodents trying to invade from the nearby areas. Permanent baiting points set inside the area can increase the efficiency of the main rodent disinfestations operation, kill those rodents still remain after the main rodent disinfestations operation and protect the area from re-infestation with rodents caused by those animals leaking through the permanent baiting points at the boundary and penetration points. Locations such as flowerbeds, gullies, refuse collection points/junks collection points and their adjacent areas, goods loading and unloading areas, market and its surrounding areas and the boundary of the area to be maintained as rodent-free are examples of suitable sites for setting permanent baiting stations. The permanent baiting stations should be set at a distance of at least about 5 m but not more than 50 m apart for getting effective and efficient coverage.

