

The following points should be noted when carrying out poison treatment against rodent:

- Put rodenticides in sturdy baiting box with cover (Fig 6.28 & 6.29) at the baiting stations so as to avoid accidental poisoning of pets or children;



Fig. 6.28 (Left) Bait box



Fig. 6.29 (Right) Bait box

- Put on personal protective equipment such as rubber gloves and mask in handling poisonous bait;
- Post prominent warning notice at each baiting station and well alert people in the premises of the rodenticide treatment;
- Inspect the baiting stations regularly for necessary replenishment of rodenticides. The strategies for maintaining an area rat-free are summarized in Annex I;
- Follow the instruction as stated on the label of rodenticide;
- Refer to 'Disposal of Dead Rodents' of this handbook for proper disposal of dead rodents; and
- Carry out disinfestations of ectoparasites of rodents whenever necessary.



Fig. 6.30 Warning notice

Appointment of pest control company for provision of professional and safe rodent control programme is recommended.

Disposal of Dead Rodents

Dead rodents should be properly disposed of promptly, to reduce the risk of contraction of rodent-borne diseases. One should avoid direct contact with dead rodents. Gloves, face mask or apron should be put on when handling dead rodents. Tools such as tongs or other instruments should be used to handle dead rodents.

Dead rodents should be put into a tough black plastic bag. The carcasses would be sprayed with general household disinfectant or diluted hypochlorite in the ratio of 1:99 until they are soaked thoroughly. The bag should be sealed and placed into another thicker plastic bag. Seal the second bag and bring the bagged material to the nearest refuse collection point directly for disposal. All items and areas contaminated by the dead rodent should be disinfected using general household disinfectant or diluted hypochlorite in the ratio of 1:99. Before taking off gloves, wash and disinfect them with general household disinfectant or diluted hypochlorite in the ratio of 1:99. Hands should be washed thoroughly with soap and water after removing the gloves.

Rodents sometimes die in inaccessible places after poisoning. The carcasses should be collected as far as possible. If not, decomposition odors may then be present, starting about the 5th day and usually lasting 2 to 5 days. The occupants can be suggested to mask the objectionable odor by blowing in deodorants, such as powdered activated charcoal or chloride of lime to the carcass(es). If this is impossible, deodorants such as pine oil or wintergreen oil should be sprayed as near as possible to the source of the odor.



How to Select a Pest Control Company

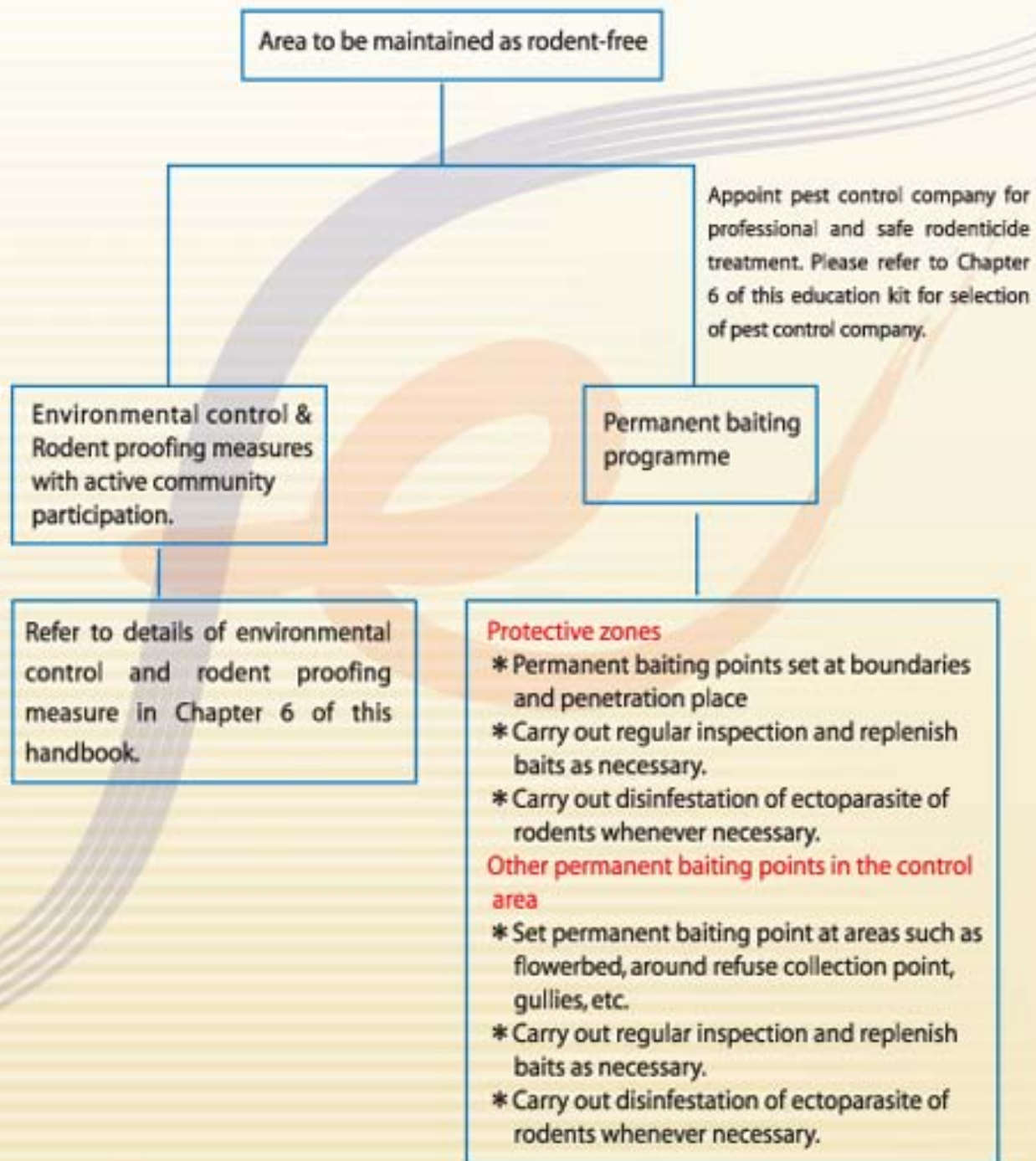
There are many pest control companies in the market that provide rodent disinfestations services. However, in the absence of a regulatory system, the quality of service provided by these companies varies. The following factors should be considered when selecting a pest control company:

- A reputable company;
- A company, preferably, specialized in providing pest control service
- A company which can provide information on the survey results, the designed control programme/method and the precautionary and safety measures;
- A company which offers the used of non-chemical method, e.g. environmental improvement, to control pests whenever applicable
- A company which offers to use less toxic but effective pesticide when application of pesticide is needed;
- A company which has employed personnel with specialized knowledge and technical skills in pest control; and
- A company which provides a detailed price list. Price should not be the only criterion in selecting pest control companies.

Evaluation of Rodent Control Operations

Evaluation is necessary to assess the successfulness of a rodent control operation. Regular inspection of the area for rodent activity enables re-allocation of the resources to meet the need of particular spots in disinfesting the rodents. The evaluation also avoids applying rodenticide indiscriminately. Besides keeping detailed records on rodent signs in each of the scheduled inspection, un-poisoned rodent bait or tracking powder (for detecting the foot marks of rodent) could be used for detecting the presence of rodent activities. A table for facilitating the evaluation of the rodent control operation is at Annex II for reference.

Annex I Strategies for maintaining a rodent-free area



Annex II Evaluation form on rodent control operation for maintaining a rodent-free area

Irregularities	Findings and follow up actions taken				
	(Date)	(Date)	(Date)	(Date)	(Date)
1. Consumption of bait in bait station(s)					
2. Rodent signs found (refer to Chapter 6 of this handbook)					
3. Scattering of refuse and food remnants found					
4. Accumulation of articles found					
5. Pet food found scattered on the ground					
6. Rodent proofing measures not well implemented (refer to Chapter 6 of this handbook)					
7. Dense vegetation found in flowerbeds					
8. Presence of cracks and crevices					
9. Others (please specify)					
10. Others (please specify)					

Inspected by:

Signature:

