



Environmental Health

Pest Management and Chemical Safety Tips

- Keep all food stored safely in durable closed containers or cupboards (rats can eat through paper)
- Do not touch a rat, even if it doesn't look dangerous – not only do they bite, but they may also carry diseases
- Dispose of all waste, including food waste, properly in a refuse container. Do not dump.
- Do not tamper with rodent bait boxes, for your own safety and the safety of others
- If you spot a damaged bait box, report it to your [local clinic](#) or [Environmental Health office](#)
- Only buy pesticides registered for use in South Africa in sealed containers/packaging from reputable retailers
- Safely store all household chemicals in a lockable cupboard out of children's reach
- Keep pesticides in the original packaging so you can refer to the usage instructions. The packaging will tell you what to do in case of accidental exposure/ingestion and minimise the chances of accidentally ingesting the poison
- Educate the entire household, and children in particular, about the dangers of pesticides
- Make sure everyone knows the emergency number to call, in case of an accidental poisoning incident



- Do not buy decanted pesticides/poisons sold in unlabelled containers for sale on the streets. These illegal pesticides are highly toxic and are potentially lethal.
- **NEVER** decant chemicals into cool drink bottles
- Dispose of empty chemical/pesticide containers as directed to avoid accidental contamination of the environment, or negative health impact on humans or animals
- Use the right chemical for the required purpose and avoid buying in bulk.
- Read the label on the package carefully and follow instructions closely - including use of gloves, if required. Use only as directed, and handle carefully
- If you have a rodent problem, or you want to report any concerns or tip-offs about the sale of illegal pesticides, contact your local clinic or nearest [Environmental Health office](#), or contact the City's call centre on 0860 103 089.