



SOUTH AFRICAN PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION
SUID-AFRIKAANSE PLAAGBEHEERVERENIGING

SAPCA

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SOP Title:	Disposal of dead rodents	SOP Number:	01
Issued by:	SAPCA	Date Issued:	2019

1. Introduction

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provides guidelines for the disposal of dead rodents by pest controllers.

Poisoned rodents should be disposed of promptly in order to prevent the poisoning of domestic dogs, owls and children.

Local Authorities have strict rules for disposing of dead animals and pest controllers are therefore advised to ensure that they do not contravene local municipal “Public Health By-laws” when disposing of rodent carcasses.

Rats and other rodents can transmit numerous diseases, both directly and indirectly, and could put you at risk of becoming ill. Therefore, in order to prevent contracting a disease when disposing of rodent carcasses, the pest controller should adhere to the safety measures in the procedures described below.

2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Required

You'll need the following:

- Protective clothing (overall)
- Protective gloves
- A respirator or dust filter mask

3. Disposal of dead rodents and uneaten baits

Trapped or poisoned rodents should be disposed of by incineration, deep burial or at Municipal Refuse Sites within 12 hours of death. In the event of dead rats not being disposed of within 12 hours, rats are to be refrigerated until disposal.

3.1 Disposal of Rodent Carcasses by Incineration

Check in your area for crematoria that will accept rodent carcasses for incineration.

Pet Crematoria can generally only take small amounts, assessed by weight. They cannot take large quantities as they are controlled by regulations and are approved primarily for the disposal of Companion Pets.

Rodent carcasses should never be touched directly. Wear your protective clothing, rubber gloves and mask before handling rodent carcasses.

3.2 Disposal of Rodent Carcasses by Deep Burial

Rodent carcasses should never be touched directly. Instead, follow these directions:

- 1) Put on protective clothing, a pair of rubber gloves and your mask before handling rodent carcasses.
- 2) Select a rodent carcass burial site at least 10 m away from any water source.
- 3) Dig a hole for the burial of the rodent carcasses to a depth of 600mm to 800mm.
- 4) **Do not** place the rodent carcasses to be buried in a plastic bag.
- 5) Place the rodent carcasses (*maximum of 30 rodent carcasses*), and any rodent-soiled objects, faeces, and nesting material directly into the hole.
- 6) Sprinkle one cup of agricultural lime over the carcasses before filling the hole with soil.
- 7) Wash gloved hands with soap and water or spray disinfectant on them.
- 8) Remove gloves and throw them into the trash.
- 9) Wash your hands with soap and water after removing the gloves.
- 10) In the event of animals (e.g. domestic dogs) in the area that may dig up the carcasses, the burial area should be fenced off.

3.3 Disposal of Rodent Carcasses at Municipal Refuse Sites

Small infestations (no more than six/6 rodent bodies) may be managed by double bagging and disposing of at municipal refuse sites.

Rodent carcasses should never be touched directly. Instead, follow these directions:

- 1) Put on protective clothing, a pair of rubber gloves and your mask before handling rodent carcasses.
- 2) Spray the dead rodent and the immediate area with a disinfectant or bleach-and-water mixture.
- 3) Place the rodent in a plastic bag. You may save the trap for future use or throw it out as well.
- 4) Place any rodent-soiled objects in the bag including faeces, nesting material or food.
- 5) Seal the bag. Do not push out the extra air from the bag, doing so may spread germs, bacteria or viruses that the rodent is carrying.
- 6) Place the sealed bag in another bag and seal it, too.
- 7) Wash gloved hands with soap and water or spray disinfectant on them.

- 8) Remove gloves and throw them into the trash.
- 9) Wash your hands with soap and water after removing the gloves.
- 10) Dispose of the bag with rodent carcasses at a municipal refuse site.