

## Rabbit Baiting

Baiting can achieve a quick reduction in numbers and is the most effective when used with other methods.

Pre-prepared baits of Pindone treated oats are available as commercial products and are suited to urban areas as there is an antidote available (Vitamin K) should an off-target poisoning occur.

Pindone is a registered rabbit poison. The product label provides specific directions for use and must be understood prior to use.

Most rabbit poisoning occurs in late summer or early autumn when rabbits range over greater distances and feed is scarce.

Identify where rabbits are feeding and lay un-poisoned baits on two or more occasions to help rabbits acquire a taste for the bait.

Bait stations are used to reduce the risk of non-target animals taking the bait. Small handfuls of bait are placed under wire structures that allow rabbits to feed but restrict other non-target animals from accessing the bait.

The baited and surrounding areas must be thoroughly monitored every day. Any rabbit carcasses should be collected and properly disposed of to lessen any risk to non target species.



Urban Resident using Pindone Oat Bait

## Contact Details and further information



For more information and advice on rabbit control, or setting up a baiting program in conjunction with neighbors in your area, contact the Bass Coast Landcare Network Pest Plant and Animal Control Officer or the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

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**Disclaimer:** The advice provided in this publication is intended as a source of information only. Always read the label before using any of the products mentioned. Phillip Island Landcare disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Information used in this brochure has been sourced from the Landcare notes on rabbits which can be found at:

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**phillipisland**  
nature parks



## Urban Rabbit Control

Bunnies be gone!



## Rabbits are Australia's most serious pest animal. They:

- **Destroy vegetation and gardens,**
- **Cause soil erosion and**
- **Compete with native animals for food and habitat.**

## What you can do: Planning a rabbit control program

Rabbit control is achieved efficiently and effectively through a combination of control measures, not just one. There is no quick-fix solution. We must be more persistent than the rabbits!

### Working together

Work with neighbors. Work done on your property will be wasted if rabbits can re-colonise from other areas. Find out what your neighbors are doing to control rabbits. Perhaps you could work together to be more effective.

### Identify rabbit feeding/living areas in and around your property

Rabbits are territorial and may live in burrows or harbour under houses, sheds, wood heaps, timber, patches of scrub or proclaimed and environmental weeds. Indicators of rabbits include scratchings, a fresh burrow with footprints and dung in the vicinity. Map these areas for future reference.



**Under the house - ideal rabbit harbour**

### Assess rabbit numbers on your property

Make observations early in the morning or at dusk. With a strong torch, walk around your property and record the number of rabbits, what they are feeding on and where they run to (i.e. live). For best results repeat observations on consecutive nights in the same areas.

**It is your legal responsibility to control rabbits on your property. Remember rabbit control is time consuming and there is no quick fix solution.**

## Methods of rabbit control

*Some appropriate rabbit control methods for urban areas include;*

### Eliminate all known rabbit habitat/harbour

Trim under hedges and thickets of scrub to destroy possible harbour. Remove all weeds - noxious weeds such as boxthorn, gorse and blackberry provide excellent shelter for rabbits. Indigenous vegetation is protected under local government planning schemes. Contact the Bass Coast Shire Council before clearing any indigenous vegetation.

Remove rubbish heaps or timber and make the sub floor areas of houses, sheds and other buildings rabbit proof. Well maintained fences can stop rabbits from damaging valuable plants on your property.

A rabbit control program will fail unless burrows and other harbour is destroyed.

### Rabbit proof fencing

This involves constructing fences around a property to exclude rabbits. There is material specifically designed for constructing such fences. Ask for "rabbit proof fencing" when making enquiries.

There are two main rabbit fence designs. Either 18cm of the fencing wire (mesh) is buried in the ground, or the lower section of the wire mesh is angled to lay on the ground facing in the direction of possible rabbit entry. The wire must be held down securely with pegs, rocks or timber.

Once you have "rabbit proofed" your areas, follow up with other techniques (eg. fumigation, poisoning and destroying burrows) to remove rabbits within the "proofed" area. Rabbit proof fencing is a one off process and is often the most cost effective method. With proper maintenance, fences should last up to 20 years. Well built and maintained fences can keep your property rabbit free.



**Rabbit proof fence example**