



TOWN OF WINCHESTER – CITY OF WINSTED

Town Hall – 338 Main Street

WINSTED, CONNECTICUT 06098

Anticoagulant Rodenticide Policy on Municipal Properties

Purpose

Certain rodenticide products, commonly known as First-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (FGARs) and Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs), are used to control rodent populations but may pose risks to non-target species and the broader ecosystem.

These products can result in primary poisoning of animals that directly consume the bait and secondary poisoning of predators and scavengers that consume poisoned rodents. Non-target wildlife, including birds of prey and other natural rodent predators, may be affected. Rodenticides may also pose risks to other wildlife, pets and children if accessed or ingested.

The purpose of this policy is to establish an Integrated Pest Management approach for safe and effective rodent control on property owned, operated, or maintained by the Town of Winchester and to eliminate the routine use of FGARs and SGARs on such property.

Policy and Intent

The Town of Winchester is committed to managing rodent populations in a manner that protects public health and municipal property while minimizing risks to people, pets, wildlife, and the environment.

The Town recognizes that:

- Secondary poisoning of natural rodent predators may negatively affect wildlife populations and can undermine long-term rodent-control efforts by reducing natural predation.
- Repeated or intensive use of anticoagulant rodenticides may result in residues entering and persisting within the environment and food web.
- Rodenticides may pose risks to pets, children, wildlife, and other non-target species.
- Effective rodent management should emphasize prevention, sanitation, exclusion, habitat modification, monitoring, and other Integrated Pest Management practices before the use of toxic substances.

Accordingly, the Town shall utilize prevention and non-chemical rodent-control methods instead of using rodenticides such as FGAR or SGAR, absent the issuance of an emergency waiver..

Applicability

This policy applies to all property owned, operated, maintained, or under the care and control of the Town of Winchester, including municipal buildings, grounds, parks, recreational areas, open spaces, and public rights-of-way.

The policy applies to all Town departments and employees, as well as contractors, vendors, pest-management professionals, and other third parties performing services on behalf of the Town on covered municipal property.

Policy Requirement

Effective **11/01/2026**, the use or application of First-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (FGARs) and Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) on property covered by this policy is prohibited except as specifically authorized through the emergency waiver process established below.

Town departments and contractors shall utilize Integrated Pest Management practices when addressing rodent activity. Such practices should include, as appropriate, identifying and eliminating food and water sources, improving sanitation, sealing points of entry, modifying habitat, monitoring rodent activity, and utilizing effective non-anticoagulant control methods consistent with applicable law and product labeling.

Emergency Waivers

The Board of Selectmen may authorize a temporary emergency waiver permitting the limited use of an FGAR or SGAR when necessary to address a significant rodent infestation that presents a documented significant public health or safety concern.

A request for a waiver shall:

1. Identify the specific property or location affected;
2. Describe the nature and extent of the infestation and the associated public health or safety concern;
3. Document the Integrated Pest Management measures and less-toxic alternatives that have already been attempted and explain why those measures have been unsuccessful or are not reasonably sufficient;
4. Identify the rodenticide proposed for use, the manner in which it will be applied, and the proposed duration of its use; and
5. Describe measures that will be taken to minimize exposure to people, pets, wildlife, and other non-target species.

Any waiver shall be limited to the location, duration, and circumstances specifically authorized by the Board of Selectmen. Approval of a waiver shall not constitute authorization for continued or routine use of anticoagulant rodenticides after the authorized period expires.

Any waiver granted pursuant to this policy shall be posted on the Town's website.

Administration and Enforcement

The Town Manager shall be responsible for the administration and implementation of this policy and may establish reasonable procedures necessary to ensure compliance.

Town departments shall ensure that applicable contracts, purchase orders, pest-management agreements, and other arrangements for services on municipal property are consistent with this policy.

Contractors and vendors performing pest-control services on covered Town property shall be informed of this policy and shall comply with its requirements.

Nothing in this policy shall require a Town employee to undertake pest-control activities for which the employee is not appropriately trained, licensed, or otherwise authorized.

Definitions

Anticoagulant Rodenticide: A rodenticide that interferes with the body's normal blood-clotting process, generally through disruption of the Vitamin K cycle. Exposure can result in internal or external bleeding and, in severe cases, death.

First-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (FGARs): Anticoagulant rodenticides generally requiring repeated feeding by a target rodent to accumulate a lethal dose. Active ingredients used in FGAR products registered for rodent control in the United States include chlorophacinone, diphacinone, and warfarin.

Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs): Anticoagulant rodenticides developed to be highly potent and generally capable of producing a lethal dose after less feeding than first-generation compounds. Active ingredients used in SGAR products include brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, and difethialone.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): A coordinated approach to pest management that emphasizes prevention, monitoring, sanitation, exclusion, habitat modification, and targeted control methods designed to effectively manage pests while minimizing risks to people, property, wildlife, and the environment.

Non-Anticoagulant Rodenticide: A rodenticide that controls rodents through a mechanism other than interference with blood clotting. Active ingredients may include bromethalin, cholecalciferol, and zinc phosphide. These substances may also present significant risks to humans, pets, wildlife, and other non-target species and shall be used only in accordance with applicable federal and state requirements and product labeling.

Compliance with Law

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to authorize the use of any pesticide or rodenticide in a manner inconsistent with federal or Connecticut law, applicable regulations, licensing requirements, or the product's approved labeling.

Where applicable law imposes a more restrictive requirement than this policy, the more restrictive requirement shall control.

Effective Date

This policy shall become effective upon adoption by the Winchester Board of Selectmen.

Adopted: _____10/5/2026_____

Effective: _____11/01/2026_____