



1080

Possum control in your area

We will be using 1080 baits to kill possums in your area. This is part of the national effort to eliminate the disease Bovine tuberculosis (Tb) from livestock.

1080 has been used for pest control since the 1950s. It can only be used by licensed operators, and is the only toxin approved for aerial possum control. 1080 baits are green.

WARNING!

- Do not touch the baits, keep children away
- Extremely toxic to dogs

1080 bait types



1080 pellet baits



1080 on carrot bait. 1080 is also applied to apple cubes.



1080 paste bait on spit

IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL POISONING DIAL 111

Risk profile

Humans	Very toxic, no antidote	Do not touch baits, keep children away.
Dogs	Very toxic, no antidote	Do not allow dogs to access bait or carcasses.
Cats	Moderate	Do not allow cats to access bait.
Livestock	Moderate	Do not allow livestock to access bait. 10 day withholding applies.
Feral Game	Moderate	Do not take game from the poison area. Keep hunting dogs away.
Environment	Low	Native species are unlikely to be poisoned. 1080 is biodegradable.

Aerial control

Aerial baiting is effective over large and remote areas. Pre-feeding with non-toxic bait occurs first. Then cereal pellets are applied by helicopter at 1-2 kg per hectare, or 1 bait per 55 square metres.

All occupiers, neighbours and interest groups are informed. Aerial baiting is subject to Resource Consent and Medical Officer of Health approval.

Bait stations

1080 pellets, carrots, or sometimes apple baits are placed in bait stations. Bait stations are set about 50-150m apart. Bait stations are usually pre-fed with non-toxic bait for 1 to 2 weeks.



Sentry bait station

Hand broadcast

Pellet or carrot baits are hand broadcast onto the ground. Paddocks are de-stocked and must not be re-stocked until the control operator gives the all clear (after at least 125mm of rain and a clear test).

Ground baiting

Paste baits are laid in lines on upturned spits of turf. Spits will be turned back and baits buried before re-stocking occurs. Paddocks need to be de-stocked for 4-7 days.

Tree baiting

Paste baits are applied to the branches of trees out of reach of stock, so de-stocking is not required. This is not a preferred method and quite ineffective if there are too many trees in the paddock.

Take note

All areas where poison is laid are clearly marked with **WARNING** signs.

WARNING! POISON

_____ baits coloured _____
and containing the toxin _____
have been laid for _____ in this area.
Laid by: _____ BioWorks, GWRC Date: _____

• Do not allow children to wander without careful supervision.

• Do not allow dogs to roam or scavenge in this vicinity (if dogs are permitted).

• Do not handle baits, bait stations, bait bags or animal carcasses.

• Feral animals in this area may contain residues of the toxin and should not be taken for food.

• It is an offence for any person other than the operator to remove this sign or to remove baits from this area.

BAITS AND BAIT RESIDUES MAY CAUSE ILL HEALTH OR DEATH
IN CASES OF SUSPECTED HUMAN POISONING DIAL 111 OR CALL THE NATIONAL POISON CENTRE 0800 764 766

For additional information contact:
Greater Wellington Regional Council (BioWorks)
PO Box 1000
Wellington 6140
www.gwrc.govt.nz

Effects of 1080

Humans – Eating two 1080 baits will seriously endanger the life of a child. Even small amounts of this toxin can affect health. Keep children away and do not interfere with the baits.

In case of suspected poisoning **dial 111** for an ambulance immediately.

The symptoms of poisoning normally appear between 30 minutes and four hours after exposure. They include vomiting, involuntary hyper-extension of the limbs, convulsions, and finally cardiac and respiratory collapse.

Dogs – dogs are extremely sensitive to 1080, even a tiny amount will kill them. It is critical that they do not access bait, and are not allowed to scavenge carcasses.

Carcasses remain toxic to dogs until soft parts are fully decomposed. The bones, skin and fur are not toxic. Keep dogs out of poison areas.

Keep your dog well fed, preferably with meat, to reduce the tendency to scavenge. If you must use working dogs, muzzles are available for purchase from Greater Wellington.

In case of suspected poisoning:

- Make the dog vomit by forcing it to swallow an emetic of washing soda (place in corner of mouth, and hold mouth shut).
- If the first dose does not cause vomiting after 10 minutes, try another dose.
- Then take your dog to the vet promptly.
- Do not allow the dog, or other dogs, to eat the vomit.

The emetic of washing soda (sodium carbonate) is available from Greater Wellington on request. A knob of washing soda 1 cm in diameter is adequate. The washing soda is not an antidote.

Cats – Keep cats away from bait. Cats are less at risk from secondary poisoning, as they don't tend to eat dead animals which they have not freshly killed themselves.

Livestock - It is an offence to sell meat or milk products which have been exposed to 1080. If you believe livestock have been exposed to bait, you must notify Greater Wellington Regional Council. A withholding period of 10 days will apply for milk and meat products for the entire herd if any stock are exposed to 1080 bait.

Feral game - It is an offence to sell meat products which have been exposed to 1080. Do not hunt

animals within 2 km of the poison area either for sale or own use. Hunting can recommence 4 months after control, or after 2 months if 100mm rain has fallen.

What is 1080?

1080 is a naturally occurring compound found in a range of plant species, particularly in Australia and South Africa. It is also present in tea leaves and guar gum (a binding agent sometimes used in food production).

1080 is biodegradable so does not accumulate in the environment or persist in soil or water. In favourable conditions soil micro-organisms break down 1080 about two weeks.

Why use 1080?

1080 is particularly suited for use in New Zealand because, unlike other countries, it has no large native ground-dwelling mammals that can be affected by its use. Of the available poisons, 1080 is the only one licensed to be spread from the air. This makes 1080 a cost-effective tool for possum control over large and remote areas of terrain.

1080 and water quality

1080 operations do not contaminate water supplies.

However, we are aware there are public concerns relating to potential contamination of drinking water supplies following aerial 1080 operations. Controls over aerial application require aircraft to avoid major water bodies or waterways that flow into potable water supplies.

Scientific analysis of 1,649 water samples taken from streams after aerial operations over a 14 year period (1990-2003) found no trace of 1080 in 96.5% of the samples. Only 5 samples (0.3%) had 1080 levels over 2 parts per billion and these residues were transient. All of the 107 samples taken from reticulated town water supplies were free of 1080.

To give you a perspective one part per billion is equivalent to one second in 32 years.

A 60kg person would need to drink 2,300 litres of water containing 2ppb of 1080, every day, for some weeks, for sub-lethal effects to occur.

1080 and native species

1080 operations do not endanger populations of native birds, insects, bats, or aquatic species. Today's operations are designed to minimise such risks, and there is a substantial body of research to demonstrate this. (see "More Information" in the bottom of the page).

Benefits of possum control

Disease control – Possums transmit Tb to livestock. Effective possum control will allow us to manage this disease and protect access to international markets for meat and dairy products.

Environment - Possums destroy native forest, and compete with native species for food on a grand scale. They also eat adult native birds, their eggs and their chicks, native snails and insects and even juvenile native bats. Populations of many native species such as tui and wood pigeon (kereru) flourish after possum control.

ENQUIRIES
Greater Wellington
34 Chapel Street
P O Box 41
Masterton
T 06 378 2484
F 06 378 2146
W www.gw.govt.nz

MORE INFORMATION
The Tb issue
Benefits of possum control
Safety Data Sheet
Product Label
Pesticides Manual
Re-assessment application
1080 Factsheet

www.ahb.org.nz
www.doc.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentPage.aspx?id=39920
www.pestoff.co.nz / click on Safety Data Sheet
www.pestoff.co.nz / click on Products
www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/docts23.pdf
www.ermanz.govt.nz/search/registers.html?aid=HRE05002
www.forestandbird.org.nz / click on Publications/Factsheets/1080

Greater Wellington is the promotional name for the Wellington Regional Council
Publication date May 2007
GW/BBU-G-07/83