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## HOW DO YOU ADJUST SNAP TRAPS?

Before baiting the trap, check for sensitivity of the trigger. The trap should be sensitive enough to snap closed when the rodent feeds or otherwise touches the baited trigger, but not so sensitive as to snap if roaches or other insects come in contact with it. Trigger sensitivity can be checked by lightly touching the trigger of a set trap with a screwdriver. If the trap does not snap, the metal trigger can be bent outward to make it more sensitive. If the trap is too sensitive, the trigger tab can be bent inward.

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## HOW DO YOU SET A SNAP TRAP?

To set a snap trap, apply recommended bait to the trigger. Pull back the bail with your thumbs. Hold the bail in place with one thumb while attaching the bar to the trigger tab. Carefully place the trap as recommended above. Better results are usually obtained if two snap traps are set side-by-side.

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## HOW DO YOU PREBAIT TRAPS?

It is also a good idea to prebait, that is, use a baited but **unset** trap so that the rodent can become familiar with and start feeding on the baited trap. This requires only two or three days, after which the traps can be set.

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## HOW ARE TRAPS MAINTAINED?

The working parts of the trap should be oiled occasionally using mineral oil, never petroleum based oils. Petroleum oils may act as a repellent to rodents. Never store traps near insecticides or other chemicals, or handle domestic animals or pets before setting out traps. These can also cause traps to take on a repellent odor.



### MOSQUITO & VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

of Santa Barbara County

OFFICE: 2450 Lillie Ave. \* MAIL: P.O. Box 1389

Summerland, CA 93067

TELEPHONE: (805) 969-5050

E-MAIL: [mvmddistrict@mvmddistrict.org](mailto:mvmddistrict@mvmddistrict.org)

Visit our WEBSITE: [www.mvmddistrict.org](http://www.mvmddistrict.org)

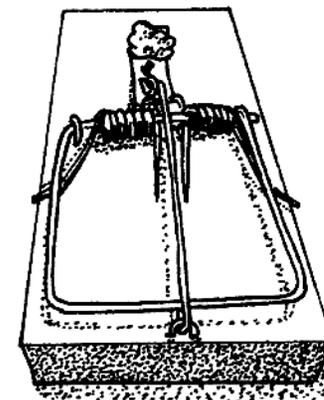
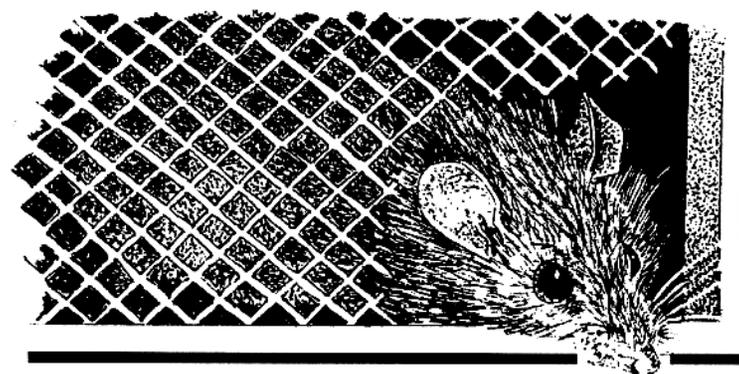
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# HOW TO USE RODENT TRAPS

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**MOSQUITO and VECTOR  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
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## WHEN SHOULD YOU TRAP?

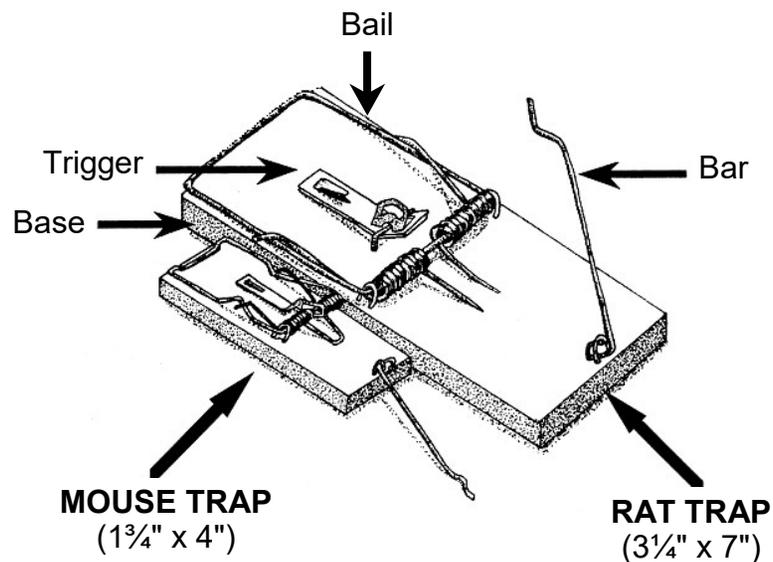
Trapping rodents is an acceptable and humane method of control. Trapping is especially desirable when poisons cannot be used, such as near food, or where small children, domestic animals, or livestock are present. Traps should also be used indoors where there is the risk of a poisoned rodent dying in an inaccessible area, possibly creating an odor problem.

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## WHAT TYPE OF TRAP SHOULD YOU USE?

There are several types of traps available. Some types capture the animal alive, while others kill the rodent almost instantly. The most common and inexpensive killing trap is the single jaw "snap trap." There are two sizes available. The smaller of the two is designed for mice and the larger size is a rat trap. It is very important to choose the proper size trap. Glue tray traps may be substituted if snap traps are undesirable. It is best to avoid trapping rodents alive due to the risk of exposure to rodent-borne diseases.



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## WHAT IS THE BEST KIND OF BAIT?

Mice -	Peanut butter, bread, raisins, bacon, strawberry jam.
Roof Rats -	Peanut butter, peanut butter mixed with raw oatmeal, fresh fruit, marshmallows, jellied candies, nut meats (walnuts, almonds, etc.)
Norway Rats -	Bacon, meat scraps, fish (sardines).

For best results, try several different baits to see which is accepted most frequently by rodents. If fresh food is abundant for the rodents, use a bait that is somewhat different than what is available to them.

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## HOW SHOULD TRAPS BE PLACED?

The placement of traps is crucial to their effectiveness. Place traps in areas frequented by rodents. (The presence of droppings is a good indicator.) Placement should be such that the rodent literally stumbles over them if possible. Place the narrow end of the trap containing the trigger toward the wall or known rodent runway. Traps can also be attached to pipes or studs with wire, nails, or screws. (Drill a hole through the wood part of the trap to prevent splitting when nailing or screwing to a surface.)

