

CUTE AND CUDDLY? NO!



Help your child to understand the possum problem. Use these suggestions as talking points.

Possums are pests because...

- they damage our native forest. Possums strip the plants of fruit, flowers and leaves. This damages plants and can kill them;
- they eat the same foods that many birds need, so birds don't have enough to eat;
- they eat eggs and chicks of our native birds. They also eat our native land snails and insects;
- they spread disease called Tb which makes cows and deer very sick. People cannot eat meat from sick animals.

Possums are pests!

There are over 70 million possums in New Zealand. That's 70 million too many! Possums are destroying our native forests and threatening our export trade in beef and dairy products.

Remember...

- keep children away from sign-posted areas
- 1080 is a poison – do not touch green baits
- act quickly if poisoning occurs
- tell your children to keep their pets, particularly dogs, away from baits and carcasses.

Together we can protect our forests and farms – safely!



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Local Government
New Zealand
te pūtahi matakōkiri



FIRST AID

- give a glass or two of water
- cause vomiting with ipecac syrup (pharmacy-only medicine) or with fingers down the throat

Do not cause vomiting if patient is unconscious or convulsing.

Seek urgent medical attention for follow-up treatment

National Poisons Centre 24-hour emergency service: 0800-764-766

For further information about possum control and the use of 1080, please contact your Regional Council or nearest Department of Conservation office.

www.npca.org.nz

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National Pest
Control Agencies



THE POSSUM BUSTERS ARE COMING

Possum control using 1080 poison will soon be undertaken in an area near you.

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PRODUCED BY



National Pest
Control Agencies

This brochure explains safety measures you need to take as a parent or caregiver of young children.

To find out more about the operation in your area, contact your Regional Council or nearest Department of Conservation office.

What's being done?

Your Regional Council and/or the Department of Conservation is undertaking a possum control operation to protect forests and farms in your area.

The control programme will include the use of 1080 poison baits, either aerially distributed, placed in bait stations or placed on the ground.

How will you know about the possum control operation?

Signs like this will mark the poison area:

DANGER POISON

All persons visiting this area are warned that 1080 poison baits are to be laid by _____ on : :

All toxic baits (pollard, carrot, paste) are dyed green.

DO NOT handle any baits.

DO NOT allow children to wander unsupervised.

DOGS are not permitted.

In case of poisoning ring National Poisons Centre:
0800-764-766

Before aerial 1080 bait operations there will also be:

- letters to all neighbours of possum control areas
- notices in local papers
- information to schools and early childhood centres in your area.

Keep young children safe

Young children are curious about their environment. New and different objects catch their attention.

1080 is a poison and all poisons are dangerous. Saying "don't touch" is not enough...

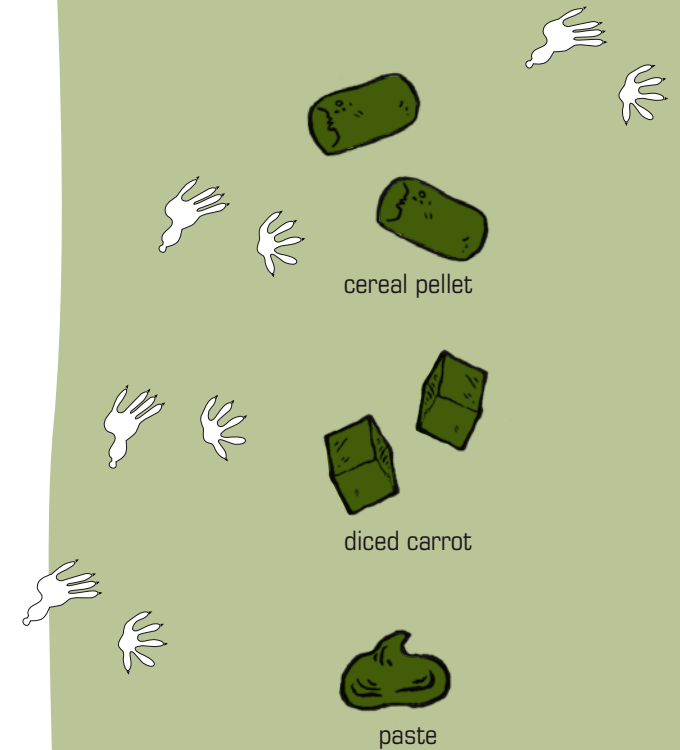
Keep young children away from signposted areas!

You can also

- teach children that the signs mean 'keep out'
- strongly discourage children from eating anything they find without asking you
- prevent children from touching dead possums – the possums may be poisoned or diseased
- tell your children to keep their pets, particularly dogs, away from baits and carcasses.



What does 1080 look like?



All poison baits are dyed green.
Do not touch!

Wash skin immediately if you or your child accidentally touch green baits or dead possums.

If you suspect poisoning...
act immediately!

