

# 0.4% Strychnine Bait Preparation

*This information is provided for general guidance only. Always follow the product label, the manufacturer's instructions, and provincial stewardship guidelines. Each farm is responsible for completing its own farm-specific hazard and risk assessment and for eliminating hazards or putting appropriate control measures in place. Using this document does not change or remove any obligations under the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Pest Control Products Act, or any other applicable laws or regulatory requirements. AgSafe Alberta does not accept liability for the use of this information. By using or sharing this document, the Operator agrees to waive any right to bring claims against AgSafe Alberta and to indemnify and hold harmless AgSafe Alberta, its officers, directors, agents, employees, representatives, successors, and assigns from any claims arising now or in the future, including claims related to negligence or breaches of statutory or common law duties.*

## BASIC INFORMATION

Safe mixing of the 2% liquid strychnine concentrate in hulled or hullless oats or wheat to create a 0.4% strychnine bait concentrate is essential due to its extreme toxicity. It is a restricted-use pesticide in Canada that has been authorized for specific emergency use until November 1, 2027, and only in specific areas.

## HAZARDS & RISKS

Leaks or spills from improper handling, unsecured containers, or damaged containers. Strychnine is corrosive to the eyes. Fatal if swallowed or absorbed through eyes. May be fatal if absorbed through the skin, or if aerosol/dust from treated bait is inhaled. Emits highly toxic fumes when heated. Highly toxic to all forms of life (wildlife, birds, pets, livestock, non-target species, aquatic life). Secondary poisoning from poisoned carcasses, spilled bait, contaminated water may occur and is a major concern. Exposures relating to theft, unauthorized access, improper storage and handling.

### DO

- Ensure only authorized, qualified people mix and handle the product.
- Complete a farm-specific hazard and risk assessment to ensure all reasonable precautions are taken.
- Ensure that people handling the product, and those working on the farm around it, are aware of the risks and the signs and symptoms of exposure.
- Have written plans in place for how to deal with a spill, leak, and exposure.
- Mix in properly sized, labelled containers following the manufacturers directions.
- Mix in a manner that prevents spills, the creation of droplets in the air, and minimizes dust production.
- Use all hazard control measures necessary, including by not limited to the personal protective equipment (PPE) specified on the product label.
- Wash the outside of the gloves before removing them.
- Rinse goggles and wash hands after removing personal protective equipment (PPE).

### DO NOT

- **Do not** mix or handle product if unauthorized.
- **Do not** mix strychnine with unapproved grains or materials
- **Do not** spill bait. Do not contaminate water supplies, feed, foodstuffs, or surfaces
- **Do not** eat, drink, smoke, or touch face/mouth during mixing or handling
- **Do not** store near food, feed, beverages, water, etc.
- **Do not** allow unauthorized people (e.g., children, the public, etc.) to access the strychnine concentrate or mixed bait.
- **Do not** handle without proper hazard control measures.
- **Do not** rely on personal protective equipment (PPE) alone for safety.
- **Do not** reuse empty concentrate bottles or bait containers; make them unsuitable for further use and dispose properly.
- **Do not** prepare more bait than can be used during the planned application, as Richardson's ground squirrels are less likely to eat older or spoiled bait.

## SAFE WORK PRACTICE

# 0.4% Strychnine Bait Preparation

| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DO   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DO NOT  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store concentrate bottle in a locked container, away from food, feed, children, livestock, pets, and unauthorized people.</li> <li>• Only prepare the enough bait for what is needed and use it right away. Any unused bait must be stored in the labelled container that it was mixed in a locked container</li> <li>• Take measures to prevent contamination of surfaces, items, or areas.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not leave mixed bait or concentrate unsecured or unattended during mixing.</li> </ul> |

| GENERAL SAFE WORK PRACTICE  |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure you are an approved purchaser/user of the product in accordance with farm, municipal, provincial, and federal requirements.</li> <li>2. Have a written plan for dealing with a spill/leak and exposure.</li> <li>3. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment for preparing the 0.4% strychnine bait. This includes:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Coveralls over a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. A chemical resistant apron may be appropriate.</li> <li>b. Chemical resistant footwear with socks.</li> <li>c. Chemical resistant gloves.</li> <li>d. A NIOSH-approved half or full-face respirator with organic-vapor-particulate (OVP) filters. Half-mask respirators will require protective eyewear (e.g., goggles that seal around the eyes to protect against both dust and splashes) and a face shield. Note: Anyone who may be required to wear a respirator will need to be fit-tested and clean shaven.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Mix the bait in an area where:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Gloves, goggles, and hands can be washed.</li> <li>b. Should the 2% strychnine concentrate splash on skin, the skin can be washed enough with soap and water.</li> <li>c. Eyes can be flushed with large amounts of water.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Mix the bait according to the manufacturer's directions. Be mindful to mix the bait in a way that eliminates or reduces risk of a splash, as well as the amount of dust created and potentially spread.</li> <li>6. Use the bait immediately. If bait must be stored, ensure it stored in the labelled container that it was mixed in and in a secure, locked area to prevent access.</li> <li>7. Carefully move the 2% strychnine concentrate and any unused bait to the secure, locked storage area where it will be kept until immediately before use or until return. This product must be stored under lock and key. Storage containment might include:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A locked metal chemical storage cabinet, away from incompatible materials.</li> <li>b. In a spill tray, in an approved firearm safe.</li> <li>c. In a spill tray in a designated poison cupboard that is locked and not easily tampered with or broken into.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |

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| REFERENCE INFORMATION   |
| <a href="#">Strychnine Stewardship Training</a><br><a href="#">Strychnine Label</a> |

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|--------------------|
| HYPERLINK TO VIDEO |
| Not applicable     |

### DOCUMENT ACCEPTANCE STATUS

| Date Reviewed | Date Approved for Use By Farm | Approved By |
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|               |                               |             |

### DOCUMENT REVIEW

| Date Reviewed | Print Name | Signature |
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