



Strychnine Safety Package



This document provides general safety information to help farms plan for the safe transport, preparation, use, and monitoring of strychnine products used for Richardson's ground squirrel control.

Because strychnine is highly toxic and poses serious risks to people, animals, and the environment, careful planning, handling, storage, and monitoring are essential. This resource is intended to support safer decision-making and should always be used alongside the product label, manufacturer instructions, and provincial stewardship requirements.

A list of additional supporting resources is located at the end of this document.

AgSafe Alberta is a farmer-led, non-profit organization that provides confidential health and safety support to farmers and ranchers across Alberta.

If you have farm safety questions, contact AgSafe Alberta at call 1-833-9AGSAFE (1-833-924-7233) or email info@agsafeab.ca

Strychnine Safety & Awareness for Richardson's Ground Squirrel Control

What Is Strychnine

Strychnine is a highly toxic white odourless, bitter crystalline powder. A 2% liquid strychnine concentrate has been approved for emergency use to control Richardson's ground squirrel populations in select areas, ending in November of 2027.

How Strychnine Works

Strychnine affects the central nervous system, causing uncontrollable muscle contractions. A lethal dose can cause convulsions that lead to asphyxiation (a condition in which the body does not receive enough oxygen, potentially leading to unconsciousness or death). The effects of strychnine can also lead to other serious and potentially fatal complications.



Is There an Antidote?

No.

Persistence in the Environment

Strychnine is a very stable chemical compound. Studies have shown that there is little to no breakdown when it is exposed to light. It can be degraded by microbial activity in *some* soils; however, degradation by microbes is very slow. Microbial degradation will be even slower in colder and drier regions. Sometimes strychnine can bind to soil particles - when this happens, microbial degradation doesn't appear to occur. Strychnine has poor solubility in water. Contamination of drains and waterways must be prevented.

Source: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/19-strychnine.pdf>

Routes of Exposure

Inhalation

Mishandled product may result in this type of exposure, for example, through exposure to small droplets or bait grain dust.

Ingestion

Drinking liquid or eating food that has come into contact with strychnine may result in exposure. Strychnine is highly toxic, small droplets of liquid strychnine or bait grain dust landing on a nearby coffee cup could be fatal.

Absorption

Strychnine can be absorbed through the skin or eyes, including through broken skin. Direct contact or wearing contaminated clothing can lead to absorption.

Secondary poisoning

Secondary poisoning occurs when an animal eats a poisoned animal or its carcass.

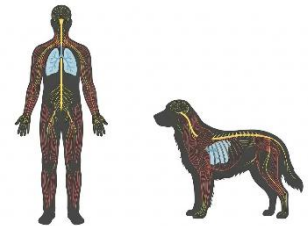
Signs and Symptoms of Poisoning

Important: The level of poisoning depends on many factors, including how the organism was exposed (e.g., ingestion versus absorption through the skin or eyes), the amount of poison the organism was exposed to, as well as the size and health of the organism exposed.

Human Exposure

Signs and symptoms may appear within 10 to 60 minutes after exposure. Cumulative/chronic toxicity is limited or not well-documented in humans.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakness* • Joint stiffness* • Light sensitivity* • Agitation • Easily startled • Uncontrollable arching of neck and back • Jaw tightness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache* • Muscle aches* • Apprehension or fear • Restlessness • Rigid arms and legs • Muscle pain and soreness • Difficulty breathing |
|---|---|



**Possible early symptoms of exposure or mild exposures.*

Signs and Symptoms of Higher Level Exposures

Note that between convulsions, the muscles may relax completely. Convulsions may return every 10-15 minutes.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark urine • Clamped jaw • Face fixed in a grin • Trouble breathing • Painful muscle spasms that may lead to a fever, kidney injury, and liver injury • Breathing stops (asphyxiation) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluish skin color • Arched body, clenched fists • Bulging eyes • Exaggerated reflexes • Initial consciousness and awareness of symptoms • Brain death |
|---|--|

Sources: <https://www.cdc.gov/chemical-emergencies/chemical-fact-sheets/strychnine.html>,
<https://calpoison.org/content/strychnine-poisoning>

Dog or Cat Exposure

Signs and symptoms typically appear within 30 to 60 minutes. Note that between convulsions, the muscles may relax completely. Severe muscle spasms can happen on their own or be triggered by touch, sound, or bright light.

Early Signs and Symptoms

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nervousness • Stiffness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenseness |
|--|---|

Mid to Late Signs and Symptoms

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trouble breathing • Breathing may briefly stop • Severe, long lasting muscle contractions • Straight legs (like a sawhorse) • Pupils become large • Breathing stops (asphyxiation) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark colored urine • Fever & seizures in dogs • Rigid muscles • Gums may turn blue • Seizures happen more often • Brain death |
|---|--|

Sources: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK459306/>
<https://www.merckvetmanual.com/special-pet-topics/poisoning/strychnine-poisoning>

Storage

Both the 2% strychnine concentrate and 0.4% strychnine bait must be stored under lock and key. Storage in a building might include:

- A locked metal chemical storage cabinet, away from incompatible materials.
- In a spill tray, in an approved firearm safe.
- In a spill tray in a designated poison cupboard that is locked and not easily tampered with or broken into.

Notifying Neighbours

Giving neighbours advance notice before placing 0.4% strychnine bait in approved areas is a good practice. It allows them to take steps to protect their family, workers, livestock, and pets. For example, people who walk their dogs along nearby roads may choose to use a muzzle (so their dog doesn't pick up a poisoned animal) or walk their dog elsewhere for a period of time until the risk has passed.

Legal & Occupational Health and Safety Considerations

While charges under the Alberta Wildlife Act, Pest Control Products Act, and the Canada Species at Risk Act often come to mind first, producers authorized to use toxic strychnine bait should also remember that they have responsibilities for the health and safety not only of their own workers, but also others (including the general public) who may be affected by the farm's operations.

It is also important to remember that enforcement actions may arise under Alberta OHS legislation, the Criminal Code of Canada (e.g., negligence), or through civil actions.

Alternative Control Measures / Integrated Pest Management

Important: *These measures should never be used at the same time as toxic baiting.*

In health and safety, the goal is to remove the hazard completely. When it is not possible, the use of other hazard control measures—such as substitution or the use of multiple control measures—are needed to make the work safer. The use of strychnine is very high-risk, not only for people, but for many other forms of life, and it has negative impacts on the environment. For example, using strychnine to control Richardson's ground squirrels can reduce the number of natural predators in the area, which may lead to increased populations later.

Take the time to create an alternative, ongoing Richardson's ground squirrel control plan. An integrated pest management plan should include:

- Monitoring the pest populations first
- Targeting only problem areas
- Using toxic bait only when other approaches have not sufficiently reduced populations
- Using cultural/mechanical controls where possible
- Keeping records of use and results

Here are some great resources to support you and your community in doing this:

<https://www.alberta.ca/richardsons-ground-squirrel-control>

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/Business/Agriculture-Natural-Resources-and-Industry/Agribusiness-Farmers-and-Ranchers/Livestock/Pastures-Grazing-Hay-Silage/richardsons-ground-squirrel-management/Control-of-Richardson-Ground-Squirrel>

<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/asbpc-ipm-gopher-ctrl-fact-sheet-1.pdf>



SAFE WORK PRACTICE

2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate Transport

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 transportation of 2% liquid strychnine 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 vehicle collisions, improper packing, unsecured containers, damaged containers. 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. Highly toxic to all forms of life (wildlife, birds, pets, livestock, non-target species, aquatic life). Emits highly toxic fumes when heated. 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	 DO NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure only authorized, qualified people handle and transport the product. Complete a farm-specific hazard and risk assessment to ensure the safe transport of the product. Ensure the people transporting, handling, and working on the farm around the product are aware of the risks as well as the signs and symptoms of exposure. Carry the product label/brochure/information sheet during transport and authorization to be in possession of the product during transport. Have written plans in place for how to deal with a spill, leak, and exposure. Before transporting the product, visually inspect the container to ensure it is fully closed, in good condition, and labelled. Transport the product in a secured (i.e., cannot move), locked container in a cargo area where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It cannot be accessed by unauthorized people, children, pets, animals. The driver, passengers, first responders, the public, and environment are protected from an accidental release. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not transport if unauthorized. Do not use or transport damaged, leaking, or improperly sealed containers. Do not transport with food, feed, water, animals. Do not transport with passengers where possible. Do not transport in the passenger area of the vehicle. Do not leave unsecured or unattended. Do not handle product or prepare bait during transport. Do not eat, drink, smoke, or touch your face when handling the product container. Do not eat, drink, or smoke while transporting this product. Do not expose the product container to extreme temperatures.

GENERAL SAFE WORK PRACTICE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DO	<input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of a motor vehicle collision, the product is secured and contained. Wear chemical resistant gloves when carefully handling and inspecting the closed container. 	

GENERAL SAFE WORK PRACTICE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure you are an approved purchaser/user of the product in accordance with farm, municipal, provincial, and federal requirements. Carry proof of training, purchase records, and the full label/brochure/information sheet during transport. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment for handling the closed container. This includes a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, chemical resistant gloves, socks, and shoes at minimum. In the event of a leak or unexpected event, have the following items in your vehicle: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A cell phone to call 9-1-1 and written plan for dealing with a spill/leak and/or vehicle collision while transporting the 2% strychnine concentrate. 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. Coveralls to wear over clothing, and ideally, a chemical resistant apron. Chemical resistant footwear. A spill kit. Upon receipt of the product, while wearing chemical resistant gloves, check the container for damage, leaks, or signs of tampering. Do not transport a container that is damaged or tampered with. Wash gloves before taking them off and then hands thoroughly after handling. Place the container upright in a secured, leak-proof, and lockable secondary containment in a cargo area. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The container should be secured against movement as should the product container inside. This helps prevent leakage and damage. Keep the product away from food, feed, water, passengers, pets, and incompatible materials. Lock the secondary containment so that an unauthorized person or child cannot access it. Ensure the transport vehicle is locked in the event it needs to be left unattended. Drive safely during transport. Avoid stopping in public or residential areas unless it is necessary. Once at the farm, while wearing chemical resistant gloves, unlock the secondary containment and reinspect the container. Carefully move the product to the secure, locked on farm storage area where it will be kept until immediately before use. This product must be stored under lock and key. Storage containment might include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A locked metal chemical storage cabinet, away from incompatible materials. In a spill tray, in approved firearm safe. In a spill tray in a designated poison cupboard that is locked and not easily tampered with or broken into.

REFERENCE INFORMATION
Strychnine Stewardship Training Strychnine Label

HYPERLINK TO VIDEO
Not applicable

DOCUMENT ACCEPTANCE STATUS

Date Reviewed	Date Approved for Use By Farm	Approved By

DOCUMENT REVIEW

Date Reviewed	Print Name	Signature

SAFE WORK PRACTICE

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.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DO	<input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 manufacturer's 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). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DO	<input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store concentrate bottle in a locked container, away from food, feed, children, livestock, pets, and unauthorized people. • 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 • Take measures to prevent contamination of surfaces, items, or areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not leave mixed bait or concentrate unsecured or unattended during mixing.

GENERAL SAFE WORK PRACTICE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure you are an approved purchaser/user of the product in accordance with farm, municipal, provincial, and federal requirements. 2. Have a written plan for dealing with a spill/leak and exposure. 3. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment for preparing the 0.4% strychnine bait. This includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Coveralls over a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. A chemical resistant apron may be appropriate. b. Chemical resistant footwear with socks. c. Chemical resistant gloves. 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. 4. Mix the bait in an area where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gloves, goggles, and hands can be washed. b. Should the 2% strychnine concentrate splash on skin, the skin can be washed enough with soap and water. c. Eyes can be flushed with large amounts of water. 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. 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. 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"> a. A locked metal chemical storage cabinet, away from incompatible materials. b. In a spill tray, in an approved firearm safe. c. In a spill tray in a designated poison cupboard that is locked and not easily tampered with or broken into.

REFERENCE INFORMATION
Strychnine Stewardship Training Strychnine Label

HYPERLINK TO VIDEO
Not applicable

DOCUMENT ACCEPTANCE STATUS

Date Reviewed	Date Approved for Use By Farm	Approved By

DOCUMENT REVIEW

Date Reviewed	Print Name	Signature

SAFE WORK PRACTICE

0.4% Strychnine Baiting & Monitoring

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BASIC INFORMATION

Safe transportation of 2% liquid strychnine 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, damaged containers. 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, or if ingested. Highly toxic to all forms of life (wildlife, birds, pets, livestock, non-target species, aquatic life). Poisoning from exposed bait, poisoned carcasses, spilled bait, contaminated water may occur and is a major concern. Exposures relating to theft, unauthorized access, improper storage and handling. Chronic or repeated low level exposures and lead to cumulative effects. Strychnine persistence in the soil is possible.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DO	<input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure only authorized, qualified people handle and transport the product. • Have an integrated pest management plan in place and actively being used. • Complete a farm-specific hazard and risk assessment to ensure the safe transport of the product. • Ensure the people transporting, handling, and working on the farm around the product are aware of the risks as well as the signs and symptoms of exposure. • Have a written plan in place for how to deal with a spill or exposure. • Place the bait deep in the burrow and cover it well; ensure the bait is not visible from the surface and helps reduce unnecessary exposure. • Time bait application carefully, such as when the burrows are being actively used and there are fewer food sources available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not leave unsecured or unattended. • Do not eat, drink, smoke, or touch your face when handling the product or product container. • Do not scatter bait on the ground. • Do not place it in high risk areas (e.g., near homes, recreation areas, water sources, etc.). • Do not leave poisoned animals exposed or miss checks. • Do not cross contaminate feed, food, water supplies, etc. • Do not use or handle in any unapproved way. • Do not underestimate the risks of strychnine. • Do not place too much (excess) bait into a burrow. • Do not bury the carcasses or strychnine bait too shallow or too deeply.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DO	<input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor often, especially in high-density areas. • Immediately remove of carcasses and dispose of properly. • Dispose of spilled bait and uneaten bait properly. • Document findings. 	

GENERAL SAFE WORK PRACTICE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure you are an approved purchaser/user of the product in accordance with farm, municipal, provincial, and federal requirements. Use the 0.4% strychnine bait as a last resort, as part of an integrated pest management approach. 2. Confirm species at risk are not present in the area(s) where bait is planned to be used. 3. Store 2% strychnine concentrate and prepared bait in a secure, locked area until immediately before use. 4. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment for handling the 0.4% strychnine bait. This includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Coveralls over a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. A chemical resistant apron may be appropriate. b. Chemical resistant footwear with socks. c. Chemical resistant gloves. 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. 5. Always follow the product label, the manufacturer’s instructions, and provincial stewardship guidelines for baiting and monitoring. The farm should also develop and use its own farm specific plan for baiting and monitoring. For example, bait areas should be pre-planned to protect human life and non-target species (see AgSafe Alberta’s resources to help with this) and the monitoring schedule may need to be increased due to high populations of Richardson’s ground squirrel. 6. Place all of the warning signage at all normal access points and where the bait is placed following provincial stewardship guidelines. Signs must stay in place until the end of the treatment period. 7. Place the recommended amount of strychnine treated bait deep in the burrow so that it is not visible from the surface. Cover the burrow entrance. On some operations, it may make sense to mark baited burrows with small stake/utility flags to check for disturbance or if the bait has become visible from the surface. 8. During baiting, keep a properly labelled disposal container and appropriate clean up equipment with you. In the event bait is spilled, clean it up immediately and very well. 9. After baiting, monitor the baited areas as directed by the product label, provincial stewardship guidelines, and the farms own on plan. During monitoring, look for dead animals (all types) and any uneaten or exposed bait. Remember, more frequent monitoring and carcass clean up may be required!

GENERAL SAFE WORK PRACTICE (CONTINUED...)

10. Safety remove and dispose of all carcasses and exposed bait according to the label and provincial stewardship guidelines and according to the farms hazard and risk assessment.
 - a. If burial will be the method of disposal, ensure the burial pit is at least 46 cm/18 inches deep. **Note:** that deeper burial (deeper than 60 cm/24 inches) may reduce natural break down of strychnine and increase the likelihood of longer term persistence in the soil.
 - b. Report of any non-target animal deaths according to the provincial stewardship guidelines.
11. Keep records of monitoring and disposal following provincial stewardship guidelines and the farms own records. Mark out and keep track of the burial area - remember, strychnine is stable, breakdown of strychnine will naturally be slower in parts of Alberta, breakdown can be further slowed (or prevented) if the strychnine binds to soil particles and slowed even more if the carcasses and strychnine bait is buried too deeply. Later soil testing may be needed.
12. Warning signs may only be removed after the treatment period has ended. If stake/utility flags were used, remove these as well.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

[Strychnine Stewardship Training](#)
[Strychnine Label](#)

HYPERLINK TO VIDEO

Not applicable

DOCUMENT ACCEPTANCE STATUS

Date Reviewed	Date Approved for Use By Farm	Approved By

DOCUMENT REVIEW

Date Reviewed	Print Name	Signature

Respiratory Protection Considerations for Strychnine Handling

Respiratory protective equipment is not as simple or as quick of a fix as many mistakenly believe, and it should only be used in combination with other hazard control measures.

A NIOSH approved respirator is your **last line** of defence against the airborne contaminants related to strychnine. It will only work if:

- It is the right type for the hazard(s)
- It is used the right way, and
- The person wearing it is trained, competent and has been fit tested with that particular size, make, and model of respirator.

For tight fitting respirators, such as N95, elastomeric half facepiece, or elastomeric full facepiece respirators, **nothing can interfere with the where the respirator seals against the skin of the face**. This includes stubble, piercings, and even scars.

When using strychnine, remember the following:

- A properly fitted, NIOSH-approved **N95 respirator** can protect against bait grain dust, but **NOT vapours** released when strychnine is heated.
→ Eye protection is still required.
- A properly fitted **elastomeric half-facepiece respirator with organic vapour/particulate (OV/P) filters** can protect against both bait grain dust and vapours released when strychnine is heated.
→ Eye protection is still required.
- A properly fitted **elastomeric full-facepiece respirator with organic vapour/particulate (OV/P) filters** can protect against both bait grain dust and vapours released when strychnine is heated.
→ Separate eye protection is not required; however, prescription inserts are needed for workers who wear glasses.

Additional Supporting Resources

These resources and many more are available on the AgSafe Alberta website: agsafeab.ca

Our paid courses are **FREE** for a until **November 30, 2027** using promo code **STRYCHFEE** .

[AgSafe Alberta FarmSafe Plan Learning Program](#)

[Alberta FarmSafe Plan Manual](#)

[Respiratory Protective Equipment Course](#)

[Respiratory Protective Equipment Manual](#)

[Safety Aid: Air Purifying Respirators Found on Farms](#)

[Respiratory Protective Equipment \(RPE\) Video Library](#)

[WHMIS Awareness Course](#)

[Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System \(WHMIS\), Pesticide, Veterinary Drug and Medicated Feed Awareness Manual](#)

[Pesticide Awareness Course](#)