

## Can “Green” Pest Control of Burrowing Rodents Produce More Green for Applicators?

*An innovative poison, pesticide-free method of burrowing rodent pest control is helping to limit liability and boost profitability*



Those working to eradicate burrowing rodents in parks without poisons or other harmful chemicals, are finding success with a poison-free, non-chemical, pest control method that delivers a precision underground shockwave to the targeted animals while also collapsing their tunnel systems to prevent re-infestation.

**P**est control companies are often called on to eradicate burrowing rodents, but increasingly property owners are asking that this be done with the safest, non-chemical means possible.

For an industry that relies largely on chemicals because they are so effective at killing pests, sometimes finding a non-chemical means can be quite a challenge. But chemicals do have associated risks and liabilities, particularly in areas of public access. So when a non-chemical alternative becomes available that works, or perhaps works better than chemicals, the savviest pest control companies see it as a market opportunity.

“Clients are looking for green pest control solutions because they’re concerned with off-target problems with pesticides,” says Paul Eckebrecht, owner of Organic Solutions, a provider of professional plant and pest control services throughout southeast Idaho and Jackson Hole. “What happens if the family dog or cat eats a poisoned gopher, or there’s mis-application by the home or property owner themselves? Anytime you deal with poisons, there’s a chance that it may not be used as labeled, which presents a risk of secondary poisoning.”

Lefty Ayers, owner of Heritage Wildlife Management, a company

specializing in the elimination of burrowing rodents, agrees. “In talking with agencies such as public works departments, what I’m hearing over and over is that they cannot use and are having to completely get away from poisons. They’re concerned about them getting into the ground water and other hazards to the environment. They’re really restricted on their use. They’re really happy that our solution is poison-free.”

When traps and poisoned bait are used, a major hazard occurs when the poison is effective, since the dead rodent attracts other predators, who themselves will be poisoned.

When poison bait is *not* effective, animals that have ingested it will not touch it again, since they associate the bait with a painful experience.

If a poison gas, such as the common gopher poison Fumatoxin, is placed underground, the moisture content in the earth must be at a certain level for the gas to be contained. Otherwise, the gas escapes through cracks and not only does nothing to handle the gopher problem, it can be harmful to humans. Fumatoxin contains aluminum phosphide, a dangerous Federal-Restricted-Use pesticide. Obviously, in a heavily-used area such as a park or a golf course, poisonous gasses are a health hazard to be avoided.

But beyond all the risks involved, Ayers sees a common problem in conventional burrowing-rodent solutions. “Whether you’re using a trap, or putting bait down for them to eat, you’re depending on that animal to be a cooperative part of what you’re trying to do. I like to tell people that with our method, we don’t ask permission.”

Eckebrecht, Ayers, and others fighting this same fight may have finally found a truly effective poison, pesticide-free method in an innovative burrowing



A truly effective, poison and pesticide-free method of eliminating burrowing rodents called the Rodenator.

rodent elimination system called the Rodenator, which is helping to limit liability and boost profitability.

The Rodenator Pest Elimination System by Meyer Industries is capable of delivering a precision underground shockwave to the targeted animals’ tunnels and dens, collapsing their tunnel systems to prevent re-infestation – without the use of chemicals, poisons, or the time-consuming tradition of baiting and trapping. It is the only organic rodent control method targeting burrowing pests without poison, labor-intensive trapping and isn’t dependent on external conditions.

A wand is inserted into a burrow hole, and a mixture of oxygen and propane gas is shot into the hole for sixty to ninety seconds, depending on the type of animal. Then another button on the wand is pressed, igniting a spark into the mixture, creating a precision underground shockwave. In one fell swoop, the animals are extinguished and the tunnel system local to the hole is collapsed.

“A pesticide-free technique like the Rodenator can limit liability for both the property owner and the pest control company because it eliminates exposure to poisons, pesticides, and their unintended consequences,” says Eckebrecht.

How effective is this method? “I’ve had a very good success rate,” says Ayers.



To further increase operator productivity and comfort, a new R3 Pest Elimination System adds wired detonation up to 25 feet from the source, and 20% more power to the industry leading Rodenator line.

“I did a job in a park for the City of Chino, CA. In one 6-hour day, I made 98 shots. I came back the next day and only found 7 active burrow systems from the day before. They’re really happy. They had people getting injured in the ball park and in the fields and wanted to find something more successful than what they were doing.”

Compared to labor-intensive trapping, where traps must often be set, baited, and checked, and any rodent carcasses disposed of, delivering an underground shockwave to simultaneously dispatch the burrowing rodents and bury them in their underground tunnels is surprisingly effective, labor efficient, and can boost pest control profitability.

“We call the technique instant rodent control because the Rodenator can eliminate up to 90 percent of burrowing rodents on the first pass through,” says Eckebrecht. “Burying the rodents in their own tunnels is not only cost-effective and labor efficient but also makes it more difficult for neighboring pests to move in.”

To further increase pest control company productivity and operator comfort, a new R3 Pest Elimination System adds wired detonation up to 25 feet from the source, and 20% more power to the industry-leading Rodenator line. “Adding more power to the system while increasing operator comfort should give them the ability to do more shots per day and reach more of the burrow for greater effectiveness,” says Eckebrecht.

Although it has drawn some complaints by PETA, the American Veterinary Medical Association considers death by concussion with sufficient force to be “a humane method of euthanasia.”

Eckebrecht suggests that delivering an underground shockwave to dispatch burrowing rodents and bury them in their underground tunnels is actually more humane than conventional trapping or poisoning, and many of his clients agree.

“Poisoning or trapping burrowing rodents is not instantaneous or automatic,” explains Eckebrecht. “Not many clients want their kids or the public to view a trapped or poisoned rodent. In contrast, eliminating a rodent instantly with an underground shockwave and burying them in their own tunnels is about as quick and humane as pest control can be, with the added benefit of being poison and pesticide-free.”

For more info, call 1-800-750-4553; fax 208-365-3338; visit [www.rodenator.com](http://www.rodenator.com); email [ed@rodenator.com](mailto:ed@rodenator.com); or write to Meyer Industries at PO Box 39, Emmett, ID 83617