An anti-coagulant rodenticide that is compatible with owls

**Ridak** range of products

Difenacoum is the active ingredient of the Ridak™ range of rodenticides. Ridak™ Bait Block (Reg number L8641, Act No. 36 of 1947, difenacoum 0.05 g/kg), Ridak™ Gold (Reg number L8809, Act No. 36 of 1947, difenacoum 0.05 g/kg) and Ridak™ Paste (Reg number L8642, Act No. 36 of 1947, difenacoum 0.05 g/kg). All products are registered to BASF South Africa (Pty) Ltd.

**Ridak™ Toxicology and poisoning**

Difenacoum is a potent mammal toxin with LD₅₀ = 0.8 mg/kg but it is much less toxic to birds (LD₅₀ = 50 mg/kg). It is therefore very effective against rodents. The Ridak™ rodenticides that are offered are multi feed formulations that necessitate a number of successive ingestions before the difenacoum takes effect and kills the target organism. Due to the special formulation of Ridak™ Gold a rodent is likely to ingest sufficient bait to kill it in a short period of time. Owls that may predate on rodents that have consumed Ridak™ rodenticides, are at less of a risk of secondary poisoning than when preying on rodents that have ingested single feed anti-coagulants. The active ingredient is also largely metabolised in the target animal’s intestines hence also lowering the risk of secondary poisoning to owls. Mammals are, however, at risk of secondary poisoning should they consume dead or dying rodents over a few days.

**Critical safety measures when using Ridak™ rodenticides in homes, industrial sites, hospitality premises and agriculture**

- Apply all the Ridak™ rodenticides only in bait stations irrespective of whether it is indoors or outdoors in locations where non-target animals will not be able to gain access to the rodenticides.
- Check bait stations daily and recover any spilt bait and dispose of it. Any left over baits that have not been consumed must also be recovered and disposed of.
- After the second day of application it is likely that rodents will start expiring. Check the premises, collect any dead or dying rodents and dispose of them. This is best done early in the morning.
- Avoid the application of Ridak™ Paste where dogs are roaming around. Paste digests rapidly and liberates the difenacoum immediately upon which it will start affecting the dogs. Rather use Ridak™ Bait Blocks as the wax does not digest as easily as paste and therefore the chances of primary poisoning are reduced.
- Animals that accidentally ingest Ridak™ or rodents that have eaten Ridak™ must be examined by a veterinarian without delay for symptoms of anti-coagulant poisoning and treatment with Vitamin K₁.

**Warning!**

Apply Ridak™ strictly according to the label instructions, especially as it dictates the use of bait stations. Failure to do so will result in severe penalties according to Act No.: 36 of 1947.