

ARK IN THE PARK BAITING METHODS



Context.

This is for Ark in the Park volunteers to guide safe use of vertebrate toxins for mammalian pests. The key poisons used are brodifacoum & Double Tap (cholecalciferol & diphacinone). Brodifacoum and diphacinone are anticoagulants with the antidote Vitamin K1. Cholecalciferol is a form of Vitamin D3 which raises calcium levels in the blood to induce a heart attack. **Cholecalciferol has no antidote - extra caution is needed when handling.**

Emergency information.

If any poisoning is suspected, immediately call:

National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766

Safety Data Sheet (SDS) summaries for brodifacoum + Double Tap.

Hazard	Risk	Safety measure
HSNO 6.9B	May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure	PPE: gloves when handling, masks when bagging. Read safety label & SDS before use.
HSNO 9.1D	Harmful to aquatic life	Bait in plastic bags, uneaten bait removed.
Ingestion	Due to being in hazard class 6.9B Low risk - bagged to reduce risk of exposure	Don't induce vomiting. Wash mouth with water, call poison centre above.
Eye contact		Rinse cautiously with water for 15mins, seek medical advice if irritation persists.
Skin contact		Wash with soap & water, seek medical advice if irritation persists.
Contaminated clothing		Remove & wash before re-use. Decontaminate by washing in hot soapy water.
Inhalation		Move to fresh air, remove contaminated clothing, seek medical advice if breathing becomes difficult.

Health and Safety - Key hazards & controls:

- **Field work** - intentions book & missing person protocol, radios & locator beacons, 1st aid kits, maps
- **Rough terrain** - boots, awareness of surroundings
- **Poison** - all workers to be aware of hazards and familiar with product labels + safety data sheets. Wear gloves (rubber/gardening or nitrile), wash clothing after use, wash hands thoroughly before eating or drinking
- **Biohazards** - wear gloves when handling anything that may have come into contact with pests to protect from zoonoses (diseases spread by animals) like leptospirosis
- **Phone numbers:** Ark office 09 810 7014, Ranger station 09 810 8133, Arataki Visitor Centre 09 892 4789.
- **Radio channels:** 5 = line of sight 1, 2, 3, 4 = open channels for Waitākere Ranges & Arataki Visitor Centre.

Kauri dieback reminders:

- Only work within one Zone of Operation per day.
- **Stop, scrub, spray** any time you change area, and leave dirt/mud where it came from - if exiting the forest, scrub before entering a track.
- Changing area means moving from access track to baitline, from track to road, crossing a stream, etc.

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Field Gear (from home):

- Day pack
- Charged mobile phone (optional)
- Outdoor clothes & boots
- Spare shoes & pants (kauri dieback)
- Plastic box/ bag for dirty gear/boots in car
- Kauri dieback car & personal IDs
- Spare warm clothes + rain gear
- Food & water + hand sanitiser

Field Gear (from Ark store room)

- Radio (charged & tested) & locator beacon
- First aid kit
- Kauri kit (trigene, brush, in plastic bag)
- Hi-vis Forest & Bird vest
- Bait line description card + map
- Bait uptake card & pencil
- Repair kit + hammer (pink tape & ▲)
- Gloves - gardening or nitrile
- Line clearing tools (saw, secateurs)
- New bait for line (check type + amount)
- Spare bag for old bait being removed
- Compass (optional)

Philproof bait station information:

- Thread spacer onto nail from narrow end
- Nail to tree (NOT kauri) ~20cm off ground
- Place stick as ramp for easy rat access
- Inserting floor: with bait inside & knot outside station, slide floor in under 2 rear tabs. Press floor on one side then the other to pop under front tabs

Methods: AT BASE

1. Complete intentions book
2. Collect all gear + record gear in book
3. Ensure you know line location + safe parking spot if driving

Methods: IN THE FIELD

4. Navigate to line start
5. Refresh triangles & flagging tape as needed; you should be able to see the next 2-3 pieces of tape
6. Maintain bait stations where needed (pictures below)
7. Remove old bait (with gloves), record uptake
8. Record maintenance notes: ropes, bait stations, track clearing, general hazards, updates for line description
9. Place new bait (with gloves) - tie knot in end of bag to prevent bags being removed by pests (picture below)

Methods: BACK AT BASE

10. Full kauri dieback clean with Sterigene - remove all dirt from all gear including boots, radios, tools
11. Maintain gear; dry radios & place on charge, clean and oil tools, re-stock repair kits, leave note about any 1st aid kit items used
12. Complete intentions book for yourself & returned gear
13. Return bait line description + uptake data to store room

