

Glue boards: a briefing note

British Pest Control Association

BPCA is the professional association for the UK public health pest management industry. We're a not-for-profit organisation representing over 700 companies in the UK and highlight the risks of inadequate pest control.

BPCA is here to support Members of the Senedd in any way we can. Please contact us for more information.

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Glue boards are essential for public health

A complete ban on rodent glue boards in Wales will have a devastating impact on human health and safety. Everything from hospital wards to school lunchrooms will be liable to close while extended pest management programmes occur.

The British Retail Consortium (BRC) and UK Hospitality believe a ban on glue boards will profoundly impact SMEs, particularly in the food and hospitality sector.

Rodents carry and transmit pathogenic microorganisms (and therefore disease). Failure to act quickly in a high-risk environment can result in sickness, distress and death.

Rodent management programmes will take longer in crucial areas, meaning temporary closures (minimum of 2 weeks) of sensitive sites, such as:

- Small food and hospitality businesses
- Hospitals and care homes wards
- Food factories and preparation areas
- Critical infrastructure and government buildings.

In domestic cases, private homeowners could spend weeks living with rodents, risking their health.

A total ban on glue boards would remove a tool that helps protect some of the most vulnerable people and high-risk environments. This would have a detrimental effect on public health.

No other tool works quicker than rodent glue boards. We have no viable alternatives to glue boards when speed is crucial. Without access to glue boards, people may die.

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Our recommendations

1 Ban glue boards for untrained users

BPCA supports a ban on glue boards for the general public.

A typical consumer should never be able to purchase glue boards. They do not have the training to deploy glue boards safely without accidentally capturing non-target animals.

Even if they do everything right, they're unlikely to be able to humanely dispatch any rodents caught.

Glue boards should be banned for anyone who is not a qualified pest professional.

2 Create a licensing scheme for pest professionals

Politicians in Westminster acknowledged the profound impact a complete ban of glue boards would have on public health and the economy.

They added a licensing provision for pest professionals to maintain access to glue boards.

We urge the Senedd to add a provision for licensing glue boards for professional use so our members can continue to protect your citizens.

3 Ensure licences are available rapidly

For professionals, glue traps are already a last resort and are only used as an urgent or emergency control measure. Any licence process should be rapid to avoid potential harm to public health.

Hospitals, care homes, food businesses and other critical infrastructure relies on glue boards to protect vulnerable people.



There is no viable alternative to glue boards

Pest professionals have several tools we can use to protect people from rodents and the harm they cause.

Once an infestation has occurred, it's a professional's responsibility to choose the right tool, balancing:

- The risk to non-target species
- Animal welfare and suffering
- The risk to public health
- The practical limitations of the environment.

The following table details all the tools pest professionals use to control rodents in conflict with human health alongside their strengths and weaknesses in different use cases.

	Tools available for rodent control					
	Proofing	Denial of food and water	Removal of harbourage	Trapping	Biocides (rat poisons)	Glue (sticky) boards
Can be used after an infestation has occurred.	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
No chance of secondary poisoning.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Instantly dispatches rodents.	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗ Takes ~2 weeks	— Boards are not designed to kill rodents. Boards are checked no less than every 12 hours, and caught rodents are then humanely dispatched by the pest professional.
Quick to combat infestation occurred.	✗	✗	✗	— Rats are naturally suspicious of new things and often avoid newly set traps for some time	✗ Takes ~2 weeks	✓ Boards can be placed where rodents must travel for food, water and harbourage

Clearly when speed is critical, in areas such as hospitals, food premises and around vulnerable people, sometimes glue boards are the only viable option.