

Strychnine Stewardship Program

Overview of Requirements to Use Strychnine

This document outlines the requirements of the Emergency Use Registration (EUR) of two per cent liquid strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrel control (effective until November 1, 2027) and the associated Strychnine Stewardship Program. In Saskatchewan, strychnine can only be applied by trained individuals who own, occupy, rent or otherwise have authority to access eligible land. Strychnine cannot be used in residential or public areas or any other areas that will be open to the public.

Please carefully review the requirements outlined in this document before requesting to purchase strychnine from your RM. If requirements are not followed, users and their RMs may lose access to strychnine. Failure to follow these requirements could have a negative impact on future access to strychnine and other alternative rodenticides.

See [Saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control](https://saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control) for full details about the Strychnine Stewardship Program.

To purchase strychnine, you must:

- ✓ Own, occupy, rent or otherwise have authority to access land in a participating RM or a First Nation community within the eligible use area.
- ✓ Choose which RM you will be purchasing strychnine from. If you have land in multiple RMs in the eligible strychnine use area, you must select a single RM to purchase your strychnine from.
- ✓ Complete mandatory online strychnine training.
- ✓ Select locations for treatment within the eligible use area and develop a treatment plan.
- ✓ Sign a Treatment Plan and Declaration Form and be prepared to complete additional paperwork after application.

Mandatory Training Requirements

Training is available online through the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities' website (sarm.ca/strychnine-stewardship-training). Training is self-paced and will take approximately 90 minutes to complete. It includes information on strychnine use, protection of species at risk and pesticide safety, including the following best management practices and legal requirements:

- Where and when to use strychnine and how to mix and use strychnine baits.
- Reading the strychnine label and adhering to directions in this document.
- Integrated pest management and alternative products and means of controlling Richardson's ground squirrel.
- Species at risk and how to mitigate impacts to non-target species.

This training course provides a detailed explanation of the **Strychnine Stewardship Program** and the information that users must provide to participate.

Treatment Plan and Declaration Form

Strychnine users are required to provide legal land descriptions of the planned application sites, along with information on site locations and land use (crop, pasture, etc.). Additional details include an estimate of anticipated acres treated, integrated pest management strategies used in the past 24 months for Richardson's ground squirrel and user contact information, including name and phone number.

Strychnine users must sign a declaration confirming they have reviewed the product label and will only apply strychnine on agricultural land that is facing a damaging infestation of Richardson's ground squirrel.

All strychnine users must agree to:

- Follow the product label.
- Allow officials or representatives to conduct a field audit.
- Adhere to the registration period and return product at the end of registration period.
- Avoid use in areas with species at risk.
- Not sell or give away strychnine and complete a product evaluation form by the outlined timeline.
- Regularly monitor all application areas for carcasses and ejected bait and dispose of these appropriately.
- Report any incident of non-target poisoning; and
- **Forfeit the right to purchase strychnine if the terms of the declaration form are violated.**

Application of strychnine is only recommended within the following application windows:
March 1 to June 15
and July 15 to September 1.

Product Evaluation Form

Through the Strychnine Stewardship Program, all users must provide the following information:

- A description of the Richardson's ground population density at time of application and the approximate area treated.
- Documentation for each monitoring event and disposal of surface carcasses and ejected bait, reports of non-target poisoning, reports on the presence and location of species at risk and a description of integrated pest management strategies used in the current year to control Richardson's ground squirrels.

Carcass Monitoring, Collection and Disposal

All treatment sites must be monitored daily for the first week and weekly for three additional weeks. When species at risk may be present in the area, twice-a-day monitoring for the first week may be required.

During monitoring, users are required to collect and dispose of all Richardson's ground squirrel and non-target carcasses. Any carcasses of species at risk must be reported.

Collected carcasses must be disposed of through incineration or burial in a pit at least 46 cm (approximately 18 inches) deep.

Signage

At the time of application, warning signs with required information must be posted at all normal access points to and where poisoned bait is placed.

Signs must remain in place for the entire duration that the bait is being placed in the treatment area. Signs are to be removed only at the end of the treatment period.

Strychnine cannot be used beyond the term of the approved Emergency Use Registration, November 1, 2027. After this time, all unused strychnine must be returned and disposed of.

Storage and Disposal of Product and Containers

Strychnine must be stored according to the product label. Proper storage is critical to help maintain the quality of the product and human safety. Proper storage includes:

- All containers must be stored in a locked room in a locked facility without public access.
- Do not reuse containers.
- Do not freeze.
- At the end date of the emergency registration, all unused two per cent liquid strychnine is to be returned to the RM office, where it was purchased. Dispose of empty pesticide containers by triple-rinsing, removing caps/booklets and taking them to a Cleanfarms collection site.

Monitoring and Compliance

All users must be aware that field and documentation audits will be conducted.

Any applicator not following the requirements of the approved Emergency Use Registration or the Strychnine Stewardship program may lose access to the product.

Contact

If you have any questions about the strychnine Emergency Use Registration or the Strychnine Stewardship Program, please contact rgs@gov.sk.ca.