



Choosing the Right Bait Station to Fit Specific Needs

Tamper resistance, cost and time savings all play an important role in the selection process.

Understand the Facts

The rodent-control industry has travelled a long way in the last 35 years when it comes to protecting rodenticides from the elements, and in turn protecting children and non-target animals from rodenticides. Bait stations have evolved from open trays to home-made wooden boxes to cardboard boxes to wafer-thin plastic stations to the tough, durable stations we know today. Selecting the best option for the application is an important step.

Here are some key things to consider in choosing the best bait station for a rodent-control application:

- **Rodent friendly:** Several studies have shown that rodents prefer a simple floor plan with a straight, visible path between openings.
- **Compact:** Stations with a smaller footprint have two advantages over other options: They fit under things such as shelves, pallets and equipment where rodents travel. The low ceiling height of a low-profile station appeals to a rodent's burrowing behavior by providing a confined space where they can feel safe.
- **Durable hinges:** Inoperable hinges result in lost time and money related to replacing the station. Broken hinges also can breakdown the station's tamper-resistant status.
- **Drain holes:** Stations are usually outdoors and subject to flooding. Fast, efficient water removal reduces water damage to the rodenticide.
- **Anchoring knock-outs:** To be fully tamper resistant a bait station should be anchored against movement by children under age six, pets and wildlife.



- **Look for a bait station that meets EPA tamper-resistance criteria:** Rodenticide labels state that applications must be kept away from children and non-target animals, or used in tamper-resistant bait stations. EPA Notice 94-7 establishes “tamper resistance” criteria.



- **Textured station bottom to accept adhesive:** Textured (sanded) bait station bottoms increase surface area, which increases the holding power of adhesives used to glue a station to a concrete paver. Recent tests by Liphatech have shown that PL 200® and PL 500® brands provide superior holding power versus other liquid adhesives.

- **Quick and easy lock:** The adage that time is money certainly applies here. Money is wasted when a technician has to struggle with a difficult or slow locking mechanism.

- **Service card holder:** If service cards are used, a good station will provide a designated, protected location to keep them in place and minimize loss.
- **Rounded internal corners:** Dirt and grime tend to accumulate in corners. Rounded corners are easier to clean with a brush or a quick swipe with a damp cloth.



- **Accepts rat or mouse snap traps:** Sometimes rodenticides are inappropriate for a particular job. Some bait stations are designed to accept snap or glue traps, which make the traps tamper resistant.



- **Vertical and horizontal rods:** For a bait station to be considered tamper resistant it must have a way to keep rodenticides inside, even if the station can be picked up and shaken. Most if not all commercial block rodenticide formulations have a hole in the middle so they can be skewered on a wire rod.



- **Lid opens away from wall:** When a bait station lid opens away from the wall it stays open without being held while the station is cleaned, re-stocked and documented. This can significantly improve service time and add to the technician's efficiency.



- **Pre-affixed bar codes:** Hand-held computer technology coupled with bar codes are revolutionizing the way rodent control data is collected, reported and stored. Bait stations that come from the manufacturer with bar codes already affixed cost less in terms of installation costs and time.

- **Color options:** Black stations are the least expensive to manufacture and have become the industry standard. However, gray, green, brown or white stations may blend in better with the surrounding environment.

Choosing the right bait station not only saves time and money, but it can be a morale booster for service technicians by increasing productivity and effectiveness while reducing fatigue. A quality bait station can help on all three counts.

For additional information, call **888-331-7900** or visit www.liphatech.com