

## Frequently Asked Questions About FirstStrike Soft Bait




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## **Usage**

### **Is it for both rats and mice?**

Yes! Testing has shown that it delivers excellent results for Norway rats, Roof Rats, and house mice.

### **Will it work in a mouse station?**

Absolutely. It works well and is easy to use in both mouse and rat stations. Place the needed quantity in the station and you are all set. Even just one FirstStrike pouch fits snugly in a mouse station.

### **How much do I use?**

Refer to label directions for proper use and product restrictions. For mice, 1 pouch per placement (up to 4 per bait station), usually spaced 8 to 12 feet apart. For rats, 12 (up to 48 per bait station) pouches, spaced 15 to 30 apart.

### **When should I use FirstStrike soft bait?**

In bad rodent infestations, most anti-coagulant rodenticides will have an impact on reducing the rodent population starting in 4 to 5 days. However, due to the high levels of palatability, internal tests have shown excellent results compared to competing products. So, it is perfect for heavy rodent infestations, but it is also great for those accounts that have lingering rodents, despite practicing good rodent control. Due to its product characteristics, hot climates may also benefit from this product. It would also be good as your everyday bait, but we recommend that you monitor the bait locations on regular intervals. To summarize, use FirstStrike when you really need your rodenticide to work.

### **What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required for application?**

As mandated by the EPA, the label specifies the use of gloves when handling rodenticides and dead animals (rodents).

## **Product Packaging**

### **How many pouches are in a pail?**

There are approximately 727 pouches in a 16 lb pail and approximately 364 pouches in an 8 lb pail. Pails are filled and sold by weight and not by the number of pouches.

### **Is it available?**

FirstStrike is registered and available in the United States.

### **Does it work for burrow baiting?**

There has been mixed results in using this product for burrows due to the natural tendency of rats to reject objects from the burrow. It is labeled for use "in or beside burrows". We highly recommend Maki Bulk Pellets for Norway rat burrow baiting because they are paraffinized to tolerate the moist environment of a burrow and they are seldom kicked out of burrows by rats.

### **Does it attract slugs, snails, or insects?**

Compared to other rodenticides that are without paper, the paper pouch will offer some protection against attack by insects and mollusks, at least until it is chewed open by a rodent. Some insects may be able to chew through the paper.

### **Is this a place pack?**

No – it is not a place pack or a 'toss pack'. We recommend using soft bait like a mini block. It is easy to secure to horizontal or vertical rods in a tamper resistant bait station. It is also easy to secure on a length of wire so it can be placed in a void and recovered later.

### **If it is so palatable, will rodents eat more than a lethal dose?**

Rodents do not stop feeding after consuming exacting one lethal dose of any anti-coagulant rodenticide. Especially bait like FirstStrike that is very palatable and has half the active of competing anti-coagulant rodenticides. But if you really want to solve your customer's rodent problems, then FirstStrike is an excellent product for you to use.

### **Can I remove the bait from the pouch?**

Labeling of the product does not allow you to alter the product in this way.

### **How many rodents can I kill with 1 pouch?**

There is sufficient material in each pouch to provide the LD<sub>50</sub> dose for 2 rats or about 2 dozen mice.

## **Soft Bait**

### **Does the oil on the outside contain a.i.?**

You should assume that the oil does contain the active ingredient and should use gloves (as you should with ALL rodenticides). The active ingredient Difethialone is so effective against rodents it is formulated at .0025% which is one-half the concentration found in other single feed anticoagulant rodenticides.

### **Why is there an oily residue?**

We investigated many different types of packaging for FirstStrike, including a plastic wrapper that would have prevented the slight residue that you experience. However, our testing showed a significant rodent preference for the porous paper we chose. We believe rodents are attracted to this product as the aroma escapes through the packaging.

### **Does it have an odor?**

It has a delicate aroma that most people find pleasant. The rodents will find the aroma to be very attractive.

### **What happens to the packaging material?**

In our experience rodents feed on FirstStrike as they do with pellet and meal place packs. Mice tend to chew a hole in the pouch and feed while rats prefer to shred the paper. We have observed rodents using the soft paper for nesting material, after the bait is gone.

## **Temperatures and Conditions**

### **Will the oil go rancid?**

Raw materials including fat were chosen in order to avoid rancidness. In addition, specific additives are used to slow the process of the oil becoming rancid.

### **Does it work in freezing temperatures?**

It will get noticeably harder, but it can still be applied to bait station rods in below 0° temperatures. Most importantly, the product shape doesn't change, ingredients inside the pouch do not become separated, and palatability levels do not decrease.

### **What happens when it is exposed to water?**

The FirstStrike pouch keeps the product intact so it does not separate. As long as the pouch is intact, it can withstand prolonged exposure in water and the active will still be effective.

### **Will it mold?**

You may experience mold similar to most block type rodenticides, typically in environments with high humidity. However, you may find that the rodents will eat the bait long before that. Your visits to check on bait vary based on the infestation level, but do check on the product regularly. If you will only be making very sporadic visits, you may want to use BlueMax, a rodenticide that has the same active ingredient but has 3 preservatives to give you maximum protection.

### **Will FirstStrike melt?**

Use as indicated and it will not melt. Tests have shown that it easily survives 200 degrees for 16 continuous hours. You can even use horizontal bait rods and have no trouble with the bait falling off.

### **Will it stain?**

We recommend using this product like a mini block. We have not found it to stain bait stations. If you do put it directly on carpeting or similar surfaces, it may stain.

### **Will it hold up outdoors for 30 days?**

As with block type rodenticides, it depends on factors such as the weather and rodent feeding. In field tests, intact pouches have held up outdoors in tamper resistant bait stations for over 6 months.

## **Bait Station Security**

### **Will it stay attached to the rod?**

Yes. It will stay securely attached when skewered to either horizontal or vertical rods.

### **Can I now only use the Aegis-RP in the flat position?**

No. You can still take advantage of the flexibility of positioning the RP in the vertical or horizontal positions.

### **What about rats transferring the bait away from the station?**

We have not seen evidence of translocation by rodents, including rats. This assumes that the soft bait pouch is securely affixed to a rod in the bait station. Some shreds of the packaging material may be taken by rats for nesting purposes but translocation with FirstStrike is not anymore likely than chunks of a block being pulled out from a bait station.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Is FirstStrike a “magic” bait?**

FirstStrike is an excellent and highly palatable rodenticide. However, it is no substitute for effective and proper rodent control practices. If you don't use good rodent control practices, your results will be stunted, regardless of the rodenticide you use.

### **What is the active?**

FirstStrike uses the latest active available in second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides: Difethialone. This is a Liphatech exclusive. Generation and BlueMax rodenticides also use Difethialone.

### **Does it contain peanut oil?**

FirstStrike uses vegetable oil and does not contain any type of peanut products. The product was manufactured in machinery that does not process peanut-related products.

### **How often should I clean a station?**

Regardless of the rodenticide used, you should monitor, and as necessary, clean the station. Take measures to remove small pieces of product, if needed. The very slight oily residue that may be on the bottom of the stations may actually entice rodents to enter the bait station.

### **Will the pouches get stuck together?**

Even after exposure to heat near 100° F for a month pouches in a bucket did not stick together. When subjected to sub-zero temperatures we have noticed a slight tendency for the pouches to stick lightly to one another.

### **Do rats and mice need gnawing surfaces?**

Rats and mice seem to prefer food sources on which they can get a tooth hold. They have no trouble getting started on FirstStrike.

### **Where can I get more information on FirstStrike Soft Bait?**

[www.liphatech.com](http://www.liphatech.com) has more information on FirstStrike Soft Bait, including information sheets, MSDS sheets and labels.