



# Directions for the use of Foxoff® baits in Victoria

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*The following are the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) directions governing the use of Foxoff® in Victoria.*

Foxoff® baits are manufactured baits for the control of foxes. These baits are not to be used for any other purpose. Foxoff® baits are not to be used in residential/urban areas. Additional directions may be given for the protection of wildlife.

## Record keeping

Foxoff is an agricultural chemical product that is a schedule 7 poison. Provisions of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992* state that any person using an agricultural chemical product that is a schedule 7 poison:

- must have a valid Agricultural Chemical User Permit issued under Schedule 1 of that Act, or be acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a person who holds a valid Agricultural Chemical User Permit and
- Approved persons using Foxoff® make and keep an accurate written record of use for a period of 2 years after the date of the poisoning program as detailed in the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 1996*.

## Bait placement

For identification of bait sites and to aid retrieval of uneaten baits, bait sites are to be marked with a secure marker peg, marker tape or ribbon.

A person using Foxoff® must ensure the baits are buried to a depth of 8 to 10 cm at bait sites.

Unless otherwise determined by the Department of Primary Industries, (DPI), free feed and Foxoff® poisoning sites are to meet with the following minimum distance requirements: All distances are in metres.

Bait sites should be placed no closer than the distance in column b in the table below from the features specified in column a.

Column a	Column b
Feature	Distance (metres)
Property/boundary fence	20
Habitation (dwelling etc)	150
Domestic drinking water supply	20
Watercourse containing water or any other body of permanent water	20

Distances specified in the table may be increased or decreased by an authorised officer of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) providing that:

- (a) public safety would not be placed at risk from the effects of the poison baits; and
- (b) it would not increase the opportunity for the poisoning of animals other than pest animals from the poison baits.

All such authorisations must be in writing

A person intending to use Foxoff® or Foxoff econobait® must complete and sign an “Application for Foxoff® Baits” form, available from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and abide by any conditions specified therein.

The issuing of Foxoff® by the Department of Primary Industries will be subject to the applicant providing a map of the property on which poison baits are intended to be laid. The map must show the location of the property, property boundaries other major features such as streams and bush and the proposed location of baiting.

## Notification to neighbours

A person who intends to use Foxoff® shall notify in writing all occupiers of land that adjoins the area to be treated of his or her intention to lay Foxoff® unless exempted (adjoin means: land that borders, connects with or directly faces, land on which poison baits are to be used, whether or not there is a road, a public utility or public land less than 100 metres wide between those lands and the lands on which baits are to be buried). Notification may be made by completing a prepared form (see Landcare Note: *Notice of fox poisoning program using Foxoff® baits – LC0343*).



Notification must specify:

- that foxes are the pest animal targeted for eradication or control by the use of Foxoff®; and
- the time and duration of the poisoning program; and
- the location of the land on which the poison baits are to be buried; and
- the dangers to humans and unrestrained domestic pets from the poison baits; and
- a person may be directed to give more than 24 hours notice of the intention to lay Foxoff®.

Notification must be received by neighbours at least 24 hours, but not more than 14 days prior to the commencement of baiting and be:

- given to the occupier of the adjoining land personally; or
- delivered or sent by post to the last known residential or business address of the occupier of the adjoining land.

### Exemptions from written notification

Written approval may be obtained from an authorised DPI officer to publish a notice of the intention to lay Foxoff®. Notice may be published in a newspaper circulating generally in the area where the poison baits are to be buried in lieu of written notification to individual neighbours. Approval will only be given when an authorised DPI officer considers circumstances exist that make it unreasonable to notify individual neighbours.

Notification as detailed is not required if Foxoff® is to be laid on land that adjoins any land involved in a simultaneous poisoning program where poison baits are also to be laid, such as for coordinated group poisoning programs.

### Warning signs

A person must ensure that prior to baiting an area poison warning signs issued by Department of Primary Industries (DPI) warning that poison baits have been buried on that land are erected at all vehicular entry points and any other commonly used entry points to the area. Warning signs must remain in place until baiting is completed and any uneaten bait has been removed. Warning signs must display the type of poison used, the target species, when poison baits are to be laid and a contact telephone number for further information. The telephone number may be the telephone number of the local DPI office or of the owner or manager of the land on which the baiting is occurring.

Warning signs must be removed at completion of the baiting program.

### Transport, storage and destruction of baits

A person must, as soon as possible after being issued with Foxoff®, transport those baits by the most direct route to the land on which the baits are to be buried, or to the property where they are to be stored pending their use. Baits must be securely locked away until use.

All unused and uneaten baits must be either buried to a depth of 1 metre or incinerated not later than one month from the date of purchase. **Long-term storage of Foxoff® is prohibited.**

### Safety precautions

The issuing of Foxoff® may be subject to free feeding being carried out on the land intended for poisoning.

Dogs and cats are particularly susceptible to 1080 and the dose of 1080 in Foxoff® is sufficient to kill dogs and cats. Muzzling dogs during the poisoning program can reduce the danger to dogs.

A person must be extremely cautious not to allow domestic stock or companion animals (pets) access to the Foxoff®. This warning should remain in place until:

- the baiting has been completed; and
- any uneaten baits have been collected and destroyed by incineration, or collected and buried to a depth of at least 1 metre.

A person shall not wash equipment used to contain or distribute Foxoff® within 20 metres of any watercourse (containing water) or any other body of water.

All persons, when handling Foxoff®, shall wear elbow length PVC gloves. These gloves should be washed thoroughly in running water after each use.

All persons handling Foxoff® should wash their hands thoroughly after removal gloves and before eating.

For the purposes of preventing access to Foxoff® by animals that are not pest animals, an officer of the Department of Primary Industries may direct a person to remove domestic stock from any land on which the Foxoff® is to be laid. A person must comply with this direction by the Department of Primary Industries.

Foxoff® contains 1080 that is toxic to all vertebrate species (including humans) and has no known effective antidote.

**Baits should be handled with care and KEPT OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

#### Disposal of containers

Empty containers should be buried below 1 metre, clear of waterways, vegetation and roots. **Do not burn empty containers.**

#### Destruction of carcasses

Any fox carcasses found after poisoning should either be incinerated or buried to a depth of at least 1 metre.

#### Death of non-target animals

Any death of stock, wildlife, and/or companion animals that is suspected of having been caused by the ingestion of Foxoff® and/or from the ingestion of carcasses poisoned with Foxoff® must be reported to the DPI office that issued the Foxoff® within 24 hours of any such death or suspicion of poisoning occurring.

The advice provided in this publication is intended as a source of information only. Always read the label before using any of the products mentioned.

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.