Rodent Bait Stations or Rodent Stations? Optimum Nomenclature to Reflect an Integrated Pest Management Philosophy and Practice.

An open letter to the Pest Management Industry

The pest management industry has long spoken of embracing integrated pest management. It is reflected in countless convention seminars, trade magazine articles, and postures taken by PMPs in the presentations of their companies.

In the effort of training our technicians to employ IPM practices while providing rodent control we—Kurt Treftz of Cascade Pest Control and Luke Rambo of Rambo Pest Control—have noticed that referring to "bait stations" assumes baiting will blindly occur. We want our technicians to move above automatic responses and take a moment on each account to "think" IPM. This could mean that other than a toxic bait— snap traps, tracking powder, or a non-toxic bait might be preferred in a given situation. As a result, we have determined to make a small, but meaningful, change in our company cultures by specifically referring to these 'boxes' as ***Rodent Stations***.

The benefits of IPM in performing rodent control—particularly where rodent stations are employed, the exterior perimeter of homes and commercial buildings, provides a significant measure of safety to people, pets and wildlife. This effort is also particularly helpful around concerns about raptors.

We have found that this small and simple move helps us with both our initial training and our ongoing efforts to employ IPM while performing rodent control. This being the case, we invite the pest management industry at large to adopt this stance to further the practice of IPM and safeguard non-target pets and wildlife.

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PostScript – We would like to acknowledge that Bell Labs, in the depiction of their products use both "bait stations" and "rodent stations," which seems to be a move in this direction.