



Code of Best Practice

# Use of Break Back Traps

Version 2. November 2019.

## British Pest Control Association Code of Best Practice for Use of Break Back Traps

A BPCA Code of Best Practice is a set of written rules which explains how people working in our industry should behave in a particular situation. It encompasses relevant legislation but is not the law in itself.


However, were a member to act outside of the norms outlined in the COBP, they may be subject to disciplinary action or be in breach of legislation. Members must abide by Codes of Best Practice

in their day-to-day work. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the Association.

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**[bpca.org.uk/codes](https://bpca.org.uk/codes)**

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# British Pest Control Association

## Code of Best Practice for Use of Break Back Traps

The following document has been created to offer guidance and support to BPCA members regarding the Frequency of Checking Snap/Break Back Traps.

Please follow the Pest Management Alliance Code of Best Practice for the Use of Break Back Traps/Snap Traps.

However, pest controllers must ensure that their control measures are legal, humane and are carried out with sensitivity.

**Please note:** this is guidance only on the frequency of checking snap/break back traps and will not meet all requirements and situations.

The frequency of checks will always need to be defined by site risk assessments and adjusted as required.

### The following is a guide on check frequencies in different scenarios.

#### Riddance

When using snap/break back traps as the primary control method for the riddance of current rodent activity, you must take into account your survey findings.

You should use your assessment to determine trap numbers together with the frequency of visits.

Fewer traps could require more frequent visits (this could be as little as daily), more traps will warrant less frequent visits (weekly or longer).

In this scenario you should take into account issues with secondary infestations (flies) and also possible odour issues.

If snap/break back traps are used in conjunction with other methods

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of control, the frequency should be adjusted accordingly.

#### Used for invaders ingress

This is when snap/break back traps are being used externally to monitor for, and/or protect premises from the ingress of rodents (for example, when doors are in constant use or when proofing issues have been identified and not yet rectified).

Externally, the problem of secondary infestations and odour is less likely to be an issue.

Your assessment can take this into account and can be based on the principle of a ‘triggered trap is no longer an active trap’.

Your assessment may suggest that weekly visits are appropriate but this can be extended to monthly, maybe longer in some situations.

#### Internal monitoring

When using snap/break back traps as part of an internal work monitoring program, the frequency should be defined by the likelihood of captures and the likelihood of false activation by activities on site (for example, cleaning).

In most cases, weekly checks are appropriate. These checks can however be performed by a nominated person on-site trained to inspect the bar for any signs of false activation or capture.

#### Audit standards

Some audit standards may dictate a frequency when traps are used, either as part of a control program

or when used for monitoring.

Always ensure you follow the required frequency on any sites that have specific audit requirements.



BPCA makes strenuous efforts to ensure the accuracy and current relevance of its publications, which are intended for use by technically competent persons.

However, this does not remove the need for technical and managerial judgement in practical situations. Nor do they confer any immunity or exemption from relevant legal requirements, including by-laws.

If you suspect something in this document is incorrect or out of date, please report it to [technical@bpca.org.uk](mailto:technical@bpca.org.uk) so we can review it.

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