

# Strychnine Stewardship Program for Richardson's Ground Squirrel

## Overview of Requirements for Participating Rural Municipalities

April 2026 Update

This document is to inform you of the requirements of the emergency use registration of 2 per cent Liquid Strychnine (strychnine) and associated Stewardship Program criteria that must be met by participating Rural Municipalities (RMs).

A significant time commitment is required by participating RMs to ensure the requirements are met. **If requirements are not followed, the RM may lose access to strychnine.** Failure to adhere to the requirements outlined below could also limit future access to strychnine and alternate rodenticides in the province.

### Expressing Interest in Distribution

Only RMs in the [Strychnine Emergency Registration Use Area](#) (please refer to the eligible area map on [Saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control](https://saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control) for details) can access strychnine.

**Please carefully review the requirements outlined in this document before requesting to distribute strychnine in your RM.** You must provide your RM's name(s) and contact information (Administrator and/or other RM personnel) to [rgs@gov.sk.ca](mailto:rgs@gov.sk.ca) by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 8 if you are interested in distributing strychnine.

Strychnine will only be available through distributing RMs. If your RM chooses not to distribute strychnine you can make an agreement with a neighbouring distributing RM to ensure strychnine is still available to your ratepayers. All distribution agreements must be shared with the Ministry of Agriculture.

### Training

RM personnel **must complete mandatory pesticide and vendor training** to distribute strychnine.

RMs will also be required to track and keep records of strychnine user mandatory training confirmation.

**The emergency use for strychnine to control Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RGS) is intended for a late-summer application in 2026 and a spring application and late summer application in 2027.**

## RM User Requests for Strychnine

RMs may only distribute strychnine to eligible ratepayers and pest control personnel who have met all requirements. RMs distributing strychnine will be required to:

- Confirm that users have completed training before accessing strychnine.
- Ensure users fill out forms completely. RMs must follow up with users if any information is missing. When necessary, RM staff are to work with users individually to ensure forms are properly filled out.
- Input all required information in a manner prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture. Records will be monitored by Ministry of Agriculture officials.
- Support Species at Risk (SAR) assessment on each treatment location and ensure risk mitigation criteria are met prior to sale of strychnine.
- Confirm that users have appropriate integrated pest management strategies and risk mitigation strategies in their Richardson's ground squirrel management plan.

The RM administrator or RM personnel who provide strychnine to the user must sign the Product Declaration Form and ensure that the user has signed as well.

## Record Management

The RM is responsible for maintaining all records of sales, information provided by users (Declaration Form and Product Evaluation Forms), user training certificates and strychnine returns. **There is zero leniency for incomplete information or improper record management.**

**The emergency use for strychnine expires November 1, 2027.**

RMs distributing strychnine will be required to:

- Keep records of integrated pest management strategies users have incorporated in their Richardson's ground squirrel management plan.
- Ensure that the Product Evaluation Form is submitted by the applicant to the RM after each application. Completed early-spring reports must be received and reviewed before the sale of bait for mid-summer application timing.
- Retain all records until they are informed that they can be destroyed.

## **Audits**

- All RMs distributing strychnine are subject to audits. Both the record management and the storage of strychnine will be audited. RMs must not inhibit officials from conducting audits.
- RMs must ensure that strychnine is not provided to users who have not adhered to the Product Declaration Form. Users who fail to follow the Product Declaration Form will no longer be eligible to receive strychnine until additional training on the Stewardship Program is completed.
- If the criteria of the Stewardship Program are not met by an RM, as determined through an audit or review of records, the RM will no longer be eligible to distribute strychnine until additional training on the Stewardship Program is completed.

## **Storage and Return Requirements**

- Strychnine must be properly stored. All strychnine containers must be stored in a locked room or in a locked facility without public access.
- The emergency use for strychnine expires November 1, 2027. Sale of strychnine must cease on October 30, 2027.
- Users must return all unused strychnine to the RM by November 15, 2027. The RM is responsible for gathering and documenting all returned strychnine.

## **Contact and request to distribute strychnine**

Please submit all requests to distribute strychnine including the contact information for the RM, Administrator, and other RM personnel who will participate in training to [rgs@gov.sk.ca](mailto:rgs@gov.sk.ca) by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 8 so that we can facilitate next steps with the manufacturer in a timely manner.

For information about the Strychnine Stewardship program see [Saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control](https://Saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control) or contact [rgs@gov.sk.ca](mailto:rgs@gov.sk.ca).