

## Ada County Pest Control Services

Gophers and Rock Chucks may look cute, but they are nuisance pests that can cause significant damage to your pasture, lawns or crop fields. These pesky rodents dig an extensive network of underground tunnels that can destroy crops, weaken the integrity of your topsoil, or drain irrigation ditches.



Here you can see why gophers can be so destructive—likely these five holes come from just one animal!

Ada County Pest Control can help you control gophers and rock chucks if you live within our service area. We provide all necessary products and labor for this service. Our interest is serving our citizens and keeping Ada County a great place to live, work and play!

Ada County  
Weed, Pest & Mosquito Abatement

975 E. Pine Avenue  
Meridian, ID 83642

## Pest Control Services



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# Ada County Pest Control

## Pest Control Services:

Ada County Pest Control assists in the control of Pocket Gophers and Rock Chucks (Yellow-Bellied Marmots) for areas of unincorporated Ada County. The service is provided through a "Pest Extermination" levy. Residents charged this levy have access to these services. The pest control season is contingent on the weather, but the average season begins in March and can extend into November or until the ground freezes.

## Pest Control Consultation:

Residents residing outside the Pest Extermination district can contact Ada County Pest Control with any questions about controlling gophers or rock chucks. Ada County Pest Control has licensed and experienced staff who can answer your questions and offer consultation about "do it yourself" trapping or baiting. Call our offices at 577-4646 for information.



## About the pests:



**Rock Chucks**, also known as Yellow Bellied Marmots, weigh up to 11 pounds; they can live up to 15 years and begin reproducing at age 2. They reside in colonies of up to 20 animals. Rock chucks dig huge holes in irrigation canal banks, destroying land

and irrigation systems. Ada County Pest Control will not trap rock chucks, but rather crews use vegetables coated with a bait. Once vegetables are coated with zinc phosphide, the bait is placed inside the entryways of rock chuck tunnels.

**Western Pocket Gopher** can grow up to 10 inches long. They have external pouches used to carry food or nesting material. They have small eyes and ears, short fine hair and have a strong sense of smell and touch. Gophers are solitary creatures that live up to five years. Females can birth up to three litters a year. They live underground in an extensive burrow system. The best way to identify a



gopher infestation is a small horseshoe-shaped mound at the top of the tunnel entrance. Interestingly, a pocket gopher's fur grows the same color as the dirt the creature is living in!



Ada County uses the following forms of gopher control.

## Strychnine Alkaloid Pesticide:

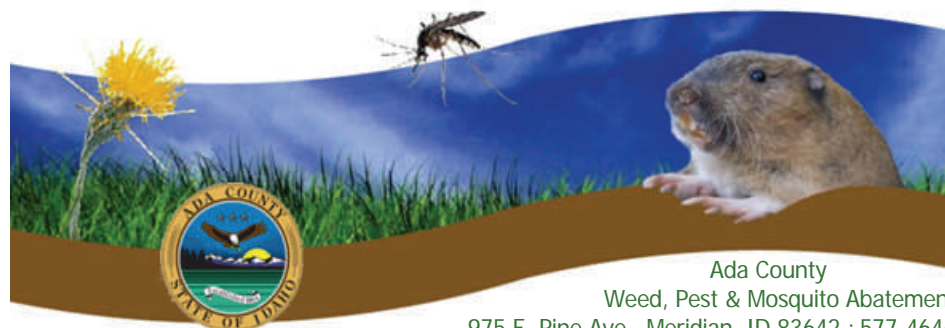
- Applied directly to the tunnel system
- Improper use can harm non-target animals or house pets
- An application license is required to use this product

## Zinc Phosphide Pellets:

- Applied directly to the tunnel system
- Slightly safer to non-target animals but can still harm pets or other animals
- An application license is required to use this product

## Traditional trapping:

- Traps are placed at the entry of the tunnel system
- This form of control typically takes longer since crews must re-visit the property to ensure the traps worked.



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