

## Maintaining your Victor rat trap

October 2019

There is no better trap for killing rats than the old standard Victor Professional trap in a wooden tunnel. They are cheap, simple, efficient, humane, and better at catching wary rats than other more expensive traps. However they were not designed for outdoor use and in damp situations they quickly degrade. Here are some simple things you can do to keep your Victor running properly for longer.

### **Trigger wire and trigger wire staple**

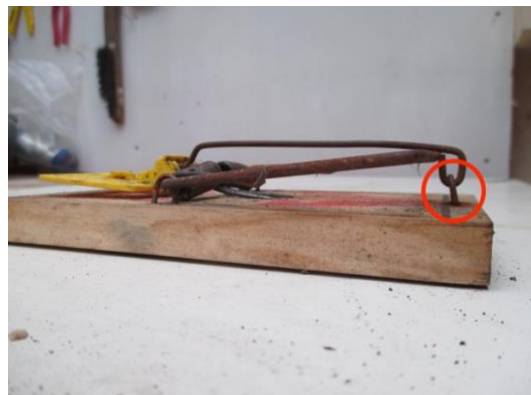
The trigger wire staple should be straight up and down. If it is bent forwards or backwards, put the staple against the edge of the trap tunnel and push gently to straighten it. It is easy to bend so don't push too hard.



In this case the staple is bent outwards. The trap can still be set but the bait tab sits up at too high an angle.



In this case the staple is bent inwards. The bait tab is too flat, and the trap can't actually go off even if a rat pushes the tab right down to the deck.



Check the condition of the trigger wire. The main shaft should be straight. This is important. The wire is soft so if it is bent you should be able to straighten it by hand.

Check the end of the trigger wire that goes into the notch in the bait tab. If it is very rusty it will bind on the bait tab, making the trap harder to set off. You can clean it up with some very fine sandpaper or steel wool. Even giving it a good rub with a rag can smooth it enough. We suggest you don't lubricate the trigger wire tip because that can make the trap hard to set.



### Striker bar

Check that the striker bar sits flat against the deck when the trap is not set. It should look like this:



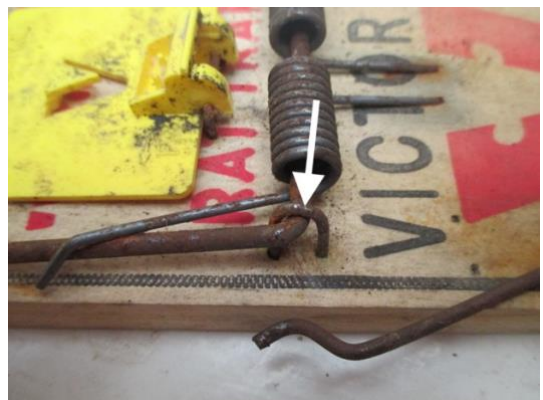
If it is lifted on one side it means that the staple that holds the striker bar down on that side has pulled part-way out of the wood.



You need to gently hammer down the staple on that side until the striker bar sits flat against the deck.

If you don't have a hammer you can turn the trap upside down, put the head of the staple against the edge of the trap tunnel, and push the staple back in.

If the wood itself has warped then it may not be possible to get the striker to sit flat against it. In this case it might be time for a new trap.



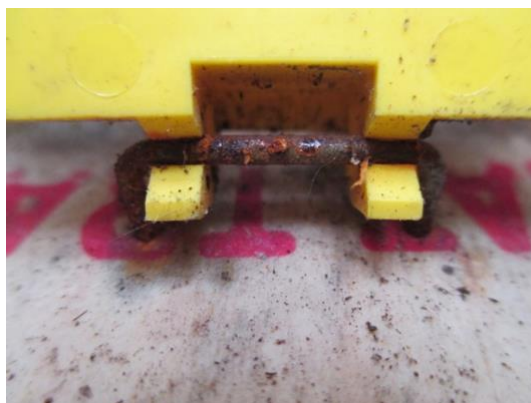
## Lubrication

Use light (thin) cooking oil for lubrication, e.g. canola oil. Don't use mineral oil such as engine oil, CRC or WD40 because the smell will put rats off.

If your trap has rusted to the point that the striker doesn't move smoothly when you pull it back, lubricate the connections between the striker and the staples. Just a drop on each side. Wire-brush the springs and then put a little cooking oil on them. If you don't have a wire brush just oil them. Pull the striker bar back and forth a few times and you should feel it free up.

Check that the bait tab moves freely on its staple. If it is stiff, you can sometimes free it up by waggling it back and forth a lot. A drop of cooking oil on each of the bait tab hinges should free it up nicely.

Ideally, the bait tab should flop to the deck when you lift it and let it go. A stiff bait tab makes the trap harder to set off.



When your trap is correctly set up it should look like this. The trigger wire staple is straight and the bait tab is at a nice angle that is not too steep and not too flat. A small rat can easily get its head over the end of the tab to reach the bait in the bait trough.

Note that the trigger wire is slightly bowed due to the pressure of the striker under it.



## How to contact us

We are on [Facebook: PestFreeUpperHutt](#). Or email us on: [pestfreeupperhutt@gmail.com](mailto:pestfreeupperhutt@gmail.com)