

Willow Farm Organics

= Ireland =

Suppliers of Organic & Non GM Drug Free Animal Feeds

Telephone 071 9646942 or 086 8101409

Diatomaceous Earth in Pest Control - Usage Instructions

SAFETY FIRST – Always use a mask to avoid inhalation (as with any powder can irritate lungs). Only ever feed food grade DE to animals/humans.

* Be aware though it will also kill beneficial insects, so don't use it on blooming flowers or vegetable flowers or you will be killing pollinators such as bees*.

Know what DE will kill and won't kill and how it works. When considering DE as a pest control product you should know that it can be safely used around all types of animals and is only deadly for pests like insects. I have even found reports that it is not harmful to earthworms. Among the list of pests reported to kill and repel : ants, termites, slugs, snails, fleas, fly maggots, aphids, bed bugs, mites, ticks, roaches, earwigs, scorpions, cutworms, ear worms, lawn grubs, grass hoppers, and many more. It does not kill due to a chemical action like most toxic poisons but rather kills by the structure of its sharp microscopic edges. The hard bodies of the pests are sliced open by the material and it literally dries them out and they die. Complete insect control may take several days as the insects die off, but whereas chemical poisons act fast and have a short residual effect, DE while working slower will remain active and nontoxic as long as it remains in the environment.

Apply DE as a dust to control pests. You can use DE as a dust in the garden around the base of plants. Just be sure to wear a dust mask if doing a large job, to prevent any possible irritation. Dust plants after they are wet from a heavy dew, rain, or irrigation to insure the product sticks to the surfaces. You can use it to pretreat seed beds and seeds to keep them from being attacked by bugs. It will also enrich the soil and will increase the soil's water holding ability. Dust or sprinkle the dry powder around your house and where the pets sleep to control fleas, roaches, silverfish, and ants. Figure on using 1/2 lb. for every 1000 sq. feet of area. The dry powder can also be used on livestock to kill and repel external parasites. Rub a handful into your dogs and cats coats every couple of weeks and put it out where your chickens like to take dust baths to control mites. Sprinkle it in the hen's nest boxes and on their roosts. You can fill dust bags with it for cattle to rub on and sprinkle it on manure piles to kill fly maggots and control odours. Sprinkled over the lawn it will control grubs, cinch bugs, grass hoppers, and control ants.

☐ It may also be used as a sprayable mixture. This is the best way to treat large areas such as a lawn and can be used to reach high areas such as up in trees to kill caterpillars and to put a protective coating on fruit. Mix 1/4 to 1/2 cup of DE in a gallon of water with a teaspoon of liquid soap, and spray it out on your lawn or plants. With this method there is no problem with dust drifting or being breathed in, and once the DE dries it will be active. You can also mix up a thicker soup to paint on tree trunks for the control of borers and bark hiding insects. Be sure to keep the spray mixture agitated as the powder will tend to settle out and if you use too much powder in the mix the sprayer may get clogged. This is a great way to treat for aphids and will really kill them fast. You should reapply after every good rain.

Finally you can use DE in your house to kill pests and repel insects. Sprinkle it around basements and baseboards where pests hide and creep. Dust your bed frames, under furniture cushions and your carpeting to kill bed bugs and fleas. Allow a good length of time for the powder to fully kill the cycle of the pest as some parasites only feed every 5 days or so and to allow eggs to hatch and begin feeding.

ALSO AVAILABLE – FOOD GRADE DIATOMACEOUS EARTH FOR HUMANS OR ANIMALS

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