



How To Mix Ant Bait:

- Combine 1 tsp boric acid powder to 2 tsp jam, peanut butter or pet food in a small container such as a jam jar or baby food jar.
- Screw lid on tightly and punch holes in lid to allow ants in and out. Lay the jar on its side near ant entry points.
- Keep children and pets away.
- Label jars as poison.
- If ants aren't interested in a sugary mixture, try changing to canned pet food or peanut butter.
- Remove or relocate jars when ants have disappeared.



Keep up to date on new environmentally-friendly ant control products by inquiring at your local home and garden chemical supplier.

The mission of the Pesticides Focus Group is: "To promote the safe and responsible use of pesticides, and actively encourage the use of alternatives, through the implementation of new policies, regulations and educational programmes".

This brochure has been produced by the



in association with the



Bermuda Zoological Society

and funded by



Please use all pesticides safely. Follow all instructions on the labels.

The Pesticides Focus Group will not be liable for the misuse of any of the suggested pesticide alternatives.



Got Ants?



Ants are a critical part of the ecosystem and play an important role in making the world a healthy place to live.



They perform ecological cleansing and fertilization by killing and eating many pests, aerating the soil and recycling dead animal and vegetable material.

One of the easiest ways to control an ant infestation is to prevent the problem from getting out of hand in the first place.



Prevention

- Store foods in containers that seal tightly or in the refrigerator when you notice ant activity.
- Don't keep garbage in your home, especially food debris.
- Keep food preparation surfaces clean. Sweep and mop the floor frequently.
- Ants need water. Keep things clean and dry and fix leaking faucets and pipes.
- Caulk around windows and doors where ants are entering the house. Weather strip doors and windows to keep ants out.
- Put pet dishes in a moat of soapy water (soap prevents ants from floating across). Partially fill a wide shallow container with soapy water and place pet dishes in the middle of it.
- If you find an ant nest near the house outside, pour boiling water into it.
- In places where children or pets play, try sprinkling pepper along door thresholds and windows.
- If the ants are climbing a pole or wire to get into your home, coat with a thick layer of petroleum jelly. The ants will not be able to walk through it.



Least Toxic Control for Household Control:

1. Observe ants and determine where they are going and at what point they entered (such as a crack in the wall).
2. Place a temporary barrier where the ants are entering with Vaseline, dishwashing liquid, toothpaste, duct tape or another sticky substance.
3. Mop up ants with soapy water or vacuum them up.
4. Once you have killed or removed most or all of the ants, permanently block the entry they were using with some form of permanent caulking.



Chemical Control:

There are two main types of low toxicity chemicals well-suited for ant control.

(1) Diatomaceous Earth and Silica Gel

These are two types of desiccants. They act by drying out the insect. When the ant comes into contact with the dust, the oily or waxy layer of the ant is destroyed and the insect dies due to dehydration without its protective coating. These controls can be purchased from pool supply companies.

Placed in wall voids or cracks between the floor and cupboards, these dusts can be very effective if kept dry. Re-dust periodically in humid weather. Always wear goggles and a dust mask during application to avoid breathing in the dust or hire a professional. People with lung problems should not use diatomaceous earth as it is an irritant.

(2) Boric Acid (Borax) Powder

This acts as a stomach poison for ants and works best when the worker ants bring back the bait to share with the colony. Eventually the entire colony obtains a lethal dose of the poison, however this may take a few days, so be patient.

Boric acid powder can be purchased from most pharmacies. Be extremely careful when using it, as the powder is an irritant. Wear gloves and eye protection when mixing.