

BORIC ACID

Nature's pesticide

If a product can kill a cockroach, it is probably not healthy for humans either. Many pesticides are extremely harmful to the human nervous system, which is why safer, non-toxic remedies are a wise choice. Boric Acid is a white powder that is mined from the Mojave Desert in California. It is nature's proven, long-term treatment for eliminating a variety of insects such as roaches, termites, fire ants, palmetto bugs, ticks, bedbugs, fleas, boxelder bugs, carpet beetles, centipedes, crickets, earwigs, grasshoppers, millipedes, scorpions, slugs' water bugs, and many other creepy crawly insects.

Boric Acid is the "secret ingredient" in so many commercial treatments for insect control. While in its non-diluted form, Boric Acid is odorless and non-staining. This solution has many interesting and useful characteristics, as well. A few of these benefits include use as an insecticide, a preservative and a fire retardant. This simple, inexpensive household chemical is deadly to all insects. It has been shown to attack their nervous systems, as well as being capable of drying their bodies. In combination with certain chemical solvents (such as propylene glycol), it may migrate slightly into such objects as wood and concrete, providing some degree of lasting protection.

Commercial developments of similar products are Bora-Care and Boric Acid type insecticides & products. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has classified propylene glycol as an additive that is "generally recognized as safe" for use in food. It is used to absorb extra water and maintain moisture in certain medicines, cosmetics, or food products. It is a solvent for food colors and flavors and is best known as auto anti-freeze. As a general household insecticide it is safe enough to use around children, and has been used in ointments and salves for diaper rash on babies. It is also used, in a very dilute solution, as eyewash.

Another well known and thoroughly proven use is in fire retardancy. It is the fire retardant used in all blown type cellulose insulation most commonly used in homes.

Procedure:

1tbs. of Boric Acid, 1 tsp. of sugar, 4 oz. water, and cotton balls

Mix Boric Acid and Sugar in a bowl. This can be poured over a cotton wad in a small dish or bottle cap. Keep this from drying out for continued effectiveness. Place cotton balls in path of ants, corners of cabinets, and anywhere else insects have been problematic.

Ants: This past year, ants have been on a rampage here in Florida, the insect capital of the world. This homemade treatment has worked very well on both carpenter ants and pharaoh ants.

Roaches: Boric acid powder is often called "roach powder". Rid your home of silverfish, those hungry, nasty-looking insects that live under your sink, your drawers, or closets and feast on valuable clothing and important papers.

Termites:

Boric acid, when mixed with glycol (anti-freeze), has proven to be very effective against many types of termites. The glycol helps the solution to penetrate into the wood and become a part of the wood fiber. This solution is a terrific treatment for dry rot in wood.

Kill Silverfish Quickly:

Take a small amount of Boric Acid, fold into small packets and place them in dresser drawers, under your sink, or closets to kill silverfish quickly with absolutely no mess.

Fleas:

Simply sprinkle it on the carpet, brush it in so it settles down into the fiber, let it sit for about a week, then vacuum. The fleas will be gone-eggs and all!!

A safe surface insecticide may be formulated by dissolving Boric Acid in plain water to make a 5% to 10% solution of clear liquid. Heating the water first makes it easier to dissolve the white powder. This simple household chemical is deadly to all insects, is safe enough to use around children, and on interior surfaces (test first on a small hidden area to check for possible -- but rare -- discoloration of finishes). Don't expect instant results; give it some time, occasionally additional applications are needed. It lasts about a year, or until the surfaces are washed.

To apply as a powder, you can use an old grated cheese shaker [make sure it has lots of holes] or an inexpensive mustard or condiment squeeze bottle.

Some important places to make sure you treat:

- Around all pipe and drain entrances in floors and walls
- In and under all cabinets, especially corners and cracks
- Around all baseboards, in corners and on top of cabinets
- Behind and under range, dishwasher, and refrigerator
- In new homes, during construction, the powder can be sprayed inside walls, soffits, and in the attic. Also, it is a good idea to apply the powder along the top of basement walls near the ribbon-plate [where floor joists rest on the concrete wall of the basement].
- For carpenter ants drill holes in wood surrounding infestation, fill with boric acid

DANGER - HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED. Protective precautions for handlers, wear long-sleeved shirt and long pants, shoes, socks and waterproof gloves. Wash thoroughly after handling. Medical treatment procedures (antidotes): If swallowed, get medical attention immediately. If medical advice is not available, induce vomiting. If in eyes, flush with plenty of water. Get medical attention if irritation develops and persists. If on skin, remove clothing and wash skin with soap and water. If inhaled, remove victim to fresh air. In case of emergency, call your local poison control center for advice. Handling, storage, and disposal: Do not contaminate water, food, or feed by storage or disposal. Do not store where children or animals may gain access. Open burning and dumping are prohibited. Boric Acid is stable at normal temperatures. Boric Acid is not flammable, and may act as a fire retardant. Emergency (spill) hazards and procedures: In case of a spill, dike to prevent borax from entering drains, sewers or water courses. Shovel or sweep up spilled material into a container. Reclaim for salvage value or dispose of in accordance with federal, state and local regulations. In case of a large spill, call CHEMTREC at 1-800-424-9300 for advice.