

# Proper Insecticide Application



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There are a number of important things to keep in mind whenever you apply an insecticide to control household pests. You should (1) follow the directions on the label, (2) wear the right clothing, (3) use the right type of application equipment, (4) use the product in the manner intended by its manufacturer, (5) place the insecticide where the pest will come in contact with it, and (6) use careful cleanup procedures.

**Always read the label on the can, box, or bottle.** Be sure the product you have chosen is labeled for use in the area where you intend to apply it. Although each specific insect pest does not have to be designated on the label, the site of application does. For instance, insecticides designed and labeled for outdoor use are not to be used indoors.

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**Be sure to wear the right protective clothing.** The label should tell you if you need to wear special clothing when applying the product. For example, some labels recommend that you wear a long-sleeved shirt, gloves, or a dust mask.

**Select appropriate application equipment.** Many insecticide products sold for household use are packaged so that application equipment is not required. Some, though, may be easier to apply with the appropriate tools. For example, dusts are much easier to apply if you use a bulb duster for small jobs or a power duster for large ones, rather than trying to sprinkle the dust by hand.

**Use insecticides as they were designed to be used.** Some are designed to be sprayed, others to be dusted, and still others to be placed as a bait that the insect eats. Again, the label will tell you where and how to use the product. For example, an ant and roach aerosol designed for crack and crevice treatments should not be used as a space spray or fogger.

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**Place the insecticide where the pest will contact it.** Often spot treatments, rather than whole-house broadcast treatments or foggings, will do the job with much less insecticide and less chance of exposure to humans. For example, treating cracks and crevices for German cockroaches in a kitchen places the insecticide where the insects are and minimizes exposure to people.

Bait stations must be placed correctly in order to ensure that they achieve the desired result. If you use them, place them as the label directs. Be sure to use the number specified on the label (don't skimp trying to save money), be careful not to place the stations upside down, and replace them with fresh ones as often as the label directs.

Dust insecticide formulations, like boric acid or diatomaceous earth, should be placed where they will remain dry and where there is little chance that people or pets will disturb them. Such areas as inside wall voids are generally ideal for insecticide dusts. By removing electrical plates, you can often gain access to the void without drilling holes.

After an insecticide application, follow smart

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cleanup procedures. Wash your hands immediately after you finish. Change to clean clothes and wash the ones you wore during the insecticide application in the washing machine separately from the other laundry. Open the windows to allow the house to air out, especially after application of an insecticide packaged as a spray or a fogger.

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