Insecticides

The term formulation is used to describe the forms in which an insecticide is available.

It is essential to have different formulations to ensure you get the right active ingredient for the right pest in the relevant situation.

Wettable Powders (WP)

Consist of an inert powder impregnated with an insecticide and incorporated with a 'wetting' agent to enable dispersion into water. They can be used on all surfaces but are particularly effective on absorbent surfaces such as brick and unpainted wood as the insecticide will remain on the surface and come into direct contact with any insects walking on it.

The suspension of the particles will settle after time and application equipment will need to be agitated to ensure good dispersion.

Suspension Concentrates (SC)

Also known as flowable powders. This is achieved by grinding the insecticide into a very fine powder then mixing it together with a liquid base. When this is further diluted with water it will form a fine suspension of particles. They have the advantage of not settling out like the wettable powders and have reduced irritability for the user compared to the emulsion concentrates.

Emulsion Concentrates (EC)

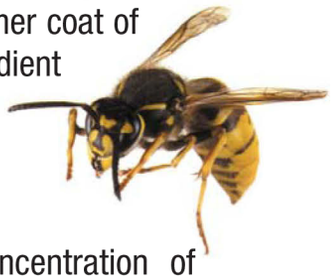
These are oily insecticidal liquids in a solvent. When diluted with water a milky emulsion is formed, throughout which the oily liquid has been finely dispersed into minute droplets. This dilution should be used immediately.

Dusts and Powders

These contain a low concentration of insecticide mixed with an inert powder. They can be applied to horizontal surfaces for use against crawling insects. Care should be taken in domestic and food areas to only apply in inaccessible places to ensure dust is not blown around. They are effective on wasp and ants' nests and can make an effective barrier to prevent insects from entering a house when used sparingly.

Microencapsulated (ME)

These formulations have the active ingredient encapsulated in a plastic polymer coat of polyurea as the active ingredient can only diffuse slowly through the coating.



Lacquers (LQ)

These consist of a high concentration of insecticide in a resin formulation which can be applied to a surface where it dries to a hard lacquer finish (discolouring can occur). They are particularly residual and can be washed frequently whilst still retaining their effectiveness.

Particularly useful on openings where insects will have to crawl across the lacquer to gain access.

Ultra Low Volume (ULV)

These are cost-effective and use much less chemical than other formulations. Ideal for large areas and will penetrate small crevices.

Smoke Generators

These combine the active ingredient with other chemicals so that when ignited will burn to produce large volumes of smoke containing the insecticide which will eventually settle. They do not provide a long residual effect but are useful in small areas that are difficult to treat by spraying. Obvious care must be taken to avoid the risk of fire.

Gels and Baits

These combine the active ingredient with an edible base. This can then be ingested by the target insect or taken back to the nest.