

# Do you have a problem with Earwigs or Ants?

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH could be a solution



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## What is diatomaceous earth?

Diatomaceous earth is made from the fossilized remains of tiny, aquatic organisms called diatoms. Their skeletons are made of a natural substance called silica. Over a long period of time, diatoms accumulated in the sediment of rivers, streams, lakes, and oceans. Today, silica deposits are mined from these areas.

## What are some products that contain diatomaceous earth?

Products containing diatomaceous earth are most commonly dusts. Diatomaceous earth products are registered for use against bed bugs, cockroaches, crickets, fleas, ticks, spiders, and many other pests. There are thousands of non-pesticide products that contain diatomaceous earth. These include skin care products, toothpastes, foods, beverages, medicines, rubbers, paints, and water filters

## How does diatomaceous earth work?

Diatomaceous earth is not poisonous; it does not have to be eaten in order to be effective. Diatomaceous earth causes insects to dry out and die by absorbing the oils and fats from the cuticle of the insect's exoskeleton. Its sharp edges are abrasive, speeding up the process. It remains effective as long as it is kept dry and undisturbed.

## Is diatomaceous earth safe for humans?

People can be exposed to diatomaceous earth if they breathe in the dust, eat it, get it on their skin, or get it in their eyes. For example, when applying the dust or when entering a treated area before the dust has settled. Exposures can also occur if products are accessible to children or pets. Exposure can be limited by reading and following label directions.

***The information above is taken directly from the National Pesticide Information Center fact sheet on Diatomaceous Earth. Follow this link to view the full fact sheet: <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/degen.html>.***

Diatomaceous Earth is available for purchase through the Uinta County Conservation District. Call 307-288-0214 for more information.



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