

## **Flea Repellants/Insecticides**

It is important that any home with a flea problem not only treat their pets, their home and their yard, but ensure that their neighbors do the same, as fleas can jump long distances and neighboring yards may harbor fleas that will reinfect the treated area.

### **Commercial sprays**

The following sprays or granules have been recommended to be pet safe insecticides capable of killing fleas. Any product that contains fipronyl (the active ingredient in topical pet products such as revolution or Advantage) is pet and child safe. Some recommended outdoor yard treatments are TalStar, Lawn Pest Control, and Over and Out Fire Ant Killer.

### **Nematodes**

Nematodes are small worms that live in the soil. They are sold commercially at Home Depot and other garden supply stores. Seed your yard with nematodes and they will not only eat the fleas larvae (immature fleas), but will reproduce on their own so you do not have to continue treating your yard except with extreme flea infestations.

### **Borax**

Borax is great for fleas. It is not toxic and you can sprinkle it on your carpet. Let it sit for a few days and then vacuum it up. You can sprinkle it around the fence of your yard too.

### **Diatomaceous Earth**

An inexpensive way to rid your yard of fleas is to sprinkle DE (diatomaceous Earth) all over the yard. You can buy a large bag for just a few dollars at any swimming pool supply store. DE is made of crushed sea shells and the small bits of DE cut the bodies of fleas, killing them, though the powder is too fine to bother people and larger animals.

### **Cedar Chips**

Putting cedar chips along your fence line will keep the fleas from other people's yards out of your yard, as cedar repels fleas. Keep in mind that the smell also deters cats, so if you care for cats this is not the solution for you. If you're looking to rid your yard of fleas AND cats, however, generously sprinkle gardens with large, flat cedar chips.

### **Herbal Control**

There are a number of herbs that are considered repellents to fleas, primarily tansy, eucalyptus, lavender, mint and pennyroyal. Keep in mind that lavender and pennyroyal also repel cats, so focus on the other herbs if you wish to keep your cats but not the fleas that hitch a ride!