

CHLORPYRIFOS BANNED

Here's a friendlier approach to keep your pets flea-free

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Chlorpyrifos is a highly toxic and moderately persistent organophosphate used to control pests like carpenter ants, termites, fleas and other house- and garden insects. Indoor use may be especially hazardous to children.

The complete elimination of products containing the ingredient from store shelves will take from 6 to 12 months, which makes access to user-friendly alternatives of great importance.

Rentokil phased out Chlorpyrifos ten years prior to its banning in South Africa, after the company had noted its potential danger. Since then Rentokil has been successfully implementing the principles of exclusion, restriction, destruction and monitoring, called ERDM for short.

It recommends alternatives like Frontline or products containing Fipronil as an active ingredient for the treatment of fleas on pets. It remains important though to consult a veterinarian before using them.

Good housekeeping practises will reduce the need for insecticides. Should they be needed, buyers should ensure that the pesticide is registered for use against the pest they are targeting and must pay special attention to dilution and application guidelines.

For those who would like to adopt a more natural and eco-friendly way of treating fleas and other household pests, the following practises are worth taking note of:

- Apple cider vinegar diluted in a 1:3 solution may be used as a spray on carpets, pet bedding and pet crates to sanitize them and to repel fleas.
- The use of organic diatomaceous soil [normally used to filter pools] in your yard, will help to keep unwanted pests at bay.
- The Tansy plant has also been used indoors in pots and outside in pet areas to keep nasty fleas from attacking red blooded prey.
- Garlic pills given to your dog in his food several times a week will make his blood unappealing to fleas and ticks.
- Lavender & Rosemary Bath; add 3 drops of rosemary oil mixed with 6 drops of lavender oil to warm water. Bathe the pet and rinse his coat with vinegar water (1 litre of water with 1/4 cup of cider vinegar).

Visit www.rentokil.co.za for more information on fleas and other common household pests, or read the latest blog on [deBugged](#)