

General Information

- Earwigs are between 5 and 12 mm long. Earwigs will lay eggs every autumn and females will hibernate and then take care of their larvae each spring.
- Most males will die early in spring after being driven from the nests. Females will die by midwinter.
- Earwigs will favour warmer weather and they will spend the day time hours in dark and inaccessible places.
- Earwigs feed on a variety of plants as well as human food stuffs and occasionally other insects.

Useful Numbers

- FIG Environment Department: 28449
- Department of Agriculture: 27355

If you are an OAP you may be eligible for free spraying. Please contact the Department of Agriculture.

- G&K Services (Earwig Control): 54777

Falkland Islands Government

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Falkland Islands
Government



Earwigs

Control in Home and Garden



Controlling Earwigs

Earwigs are an introduced pest that are spreading rapidly across the Falkland Islands. Here you will find how to control this pest around your home and garden.

In the home:

- ✓ Get the foundations of your home **sprayed** at least once a year in autumn. This will stop earwigs trying to come indoors.
- ✓ **Eliminate** high **moisture** areas around your home. Remove or **cut back vegetation** that is directly next to the house. Consider **removing garden debris** such as old tin and wood containers from immediately next to your home and storing this further away.
- ✓ **Gravel** provides good drainage next to your home and an effective barrier against earwigs.
- ✓ Applying **insecticide** to the internal perimeters of the building . This can be brushed or sprayed around **skirting boards** and holes around radiators etc.
- ✓ Ensure that all windows, cat flaps and doorways are **sealed**. This will provide a physical barrier.

In the Garden:

- ✓ Set up **traps:**
 - ✓ **Container traps** that are at least 1 cm deep can be set in the ground so that the top of the container is level with the ground near susceptible crops and doorways. Filling this with **beer, warm water and dish soap, vegetable oil or soy sauce** has been proven to attract and drown earwigs. Replace this daily.
 - ✓ **Rolled up cardboard or damp newspapers** can also prove an effective trap for earwigs in your garden.
 - ✓ A **box trap** made out of cardboard with holes in the side, near the bottom and bated with cereals will capture earwigs. Check this daily.
- ✓ **Chickens** are also an excellent bio control agent.
- ✓ Using **insecticide spray** where earwigs are in abundance. NB: avoid plants and areas where produce is grown for consumption.



Please note that these are **advice only**. You may find other methods of control that are just as effective. The use of further biocontrol agents is currently still under review.