

Does Club Soda Kill Fire Ants?

Claim:

Pouring club soda on a fire ant mound will kill the colony.

Rating:



Fire ants are a variety of stinging ants common to Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia (with colonies having been spotted in California, Missouri, Nevada, and New Mexico as well). They are so named because those who've experienced their venom say their sting feels like fire. (Fire ants bite their victims, but only to hold onto them while they sting them.)

These aggressive critters build large mounds in open areas, some up to 18 inches high. A fire ant mound resembles an oblong pile of dirt with a rounded top. Each mound will have multiple entrances to the colony on its sides rather than one opening at its apex.

Ridding one's yard of fire ants is no easy task, as each colony's queens (some colonies have multiples) must be destroyed. Commercial preparations of two types exist to accomplish this task: poisons, which are spread on bait items such as cut up hot dogs, then left near the mound for the colony's worker ants to bring to the queen; and fumigants or drenches, which are poured or piped into the mound.

A club soda process made popular online is the latter type of remedy. According to its lights, one need only douse a fire ant mound with anywhere from two cups to two liters of club soda (the amount varies depending on whom you hear this bit of wisdom from) to quickly and efficiently do away with the encroaching horde. The carbon dioxide contained in the fizzy water is supposed to suffocate the ants.

FIRE ANT KILLER

This is a new twist to killing fire ant colonies that I haven't tried yet. For those not familiar with Walter Reeves, he is from the University of Georgia agriculture department specializing in home gardening. His television show gardening in Georgia is on each Saturday.

I know fire ants are picky eaters, and any type poison that is effective takes seven feeding steps before the queen receives it. Plus, if the bait is stored in close proximity to any petroleum or fertilizer products they won't touch it. Contact poisons that are on the market just cause the colony to move away. A well developed colony can be as deep as 30 feet and spread out some 20 to 50 feet from the mound center. This has been documented by studies done in the early 60's when they were first sited in South Alabama.

An environmentally friendly cure for fire ants has been announced by Walter Reeves on his Georgia Gardener radio program. Testimonial that it REALLY WORKS are coming in.

Simply pour two cups of CLUB SODA (carbonated water) directly in the center of a fire ant mound. The carbon dioxide in the water is heavier than air and displaces the oxygen which suffocates the queen and the other ants. The whole colony will be dead within about two days.

Here's the good side: club soda leaves no poisonous residue, does not contaminate the ground water, and does not indiscriminately kill other insects. Not harmful to your pets, soaks into the ground. Each mound must be treated individually and a one liter bottle of club soda will kill 2 to 3 mounds.

The appeal of the purported club soda remedy is easy to grasp: rather than douse one's yard in noxious chemicals or leave poison-laced bait lying about, one instead pours a cheap, easily-obtainable, and wholly innocuous liquid onto the problem. However, while this cure has been touted in newspaper columns since at least 2007 (usually presented as a "Someone told me this, but I haven't tried it" tidbit), there's not much reason to believe that it is effective.

While carbon dioxide is indeed heavier than air, and a sudden overwhelming incursion of it can suffocate living things (as it did in 1986 when an eruption of this gas from a lake in Africa killed hundreds of people), fire ant mounds are sizeable underground structures that can be as deep as 30 feet and spread out some 20 to 50 feet from the mound. It's therefore questionable whether pouring a few cups of club soda into a fire ant mound would really introduce an amount of carbon dioxide sufficient to displace enough oxygen to smother all the inhabitants within.

The authority cited in the e-mail (Walter Reeves of the TV show Gardening in Georgia) disclaims this method of pest control being touted in his name, saying he has "not 'endorsed' the pouring of club soda onto fire ant mounds."

Reeves asked those who had tried the fizzy water cure to contact him with news of their results. He says of their e-mails: "From several replies that I've gotten, club soda has no effect on fire ants. The insects simply rebuild their mounds afterwards." He also notes that "the carbon dioxide atmosphere in the mound does not linger long enough to suffocate any ants" and that "baits and mound treatments are still the best way to control fire ants."

An extension article on the subject of home remedies for killing fire ants similarly states that "One of the most commonly suggested home remedies, instant grits, has been scientifically proven to have no effect. Baking soda, vinegar, club soda, molasses, plaster of Paris, and aspartame are also ineffective." It notes, however, that one method which might show promise as an effective remedy is an "ant mound drench using a mixture of dishwashing liquid and citrus oil."

Can Club Soda Kill Ants? (Fully Explained Inside!)

Are ants attracted to diet soda? No, they aren't. Diet sodas do not contain the same amount of sugar as real sugar, but they are sweetened with an artificial substitute that is perceived to be sweeter. Ants prefer sweet foods that are high in calories. They also prefer foods with a high glycemic index (GI), which is a measure of how quickly a food raises blood sugar levels.

The higher the GI, the more quickly an ant will eat a given food. Ants also like high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS), a sweetener made from corn that has been genetically engineered to have a higher GI than regular sugar, and is often used in soft drinks and other sweeteners.

In fact, a study published in the journal *Appetite* in 2010 found that ants preferred the sweet taste of high fructose corn syrups over sucrose (table sugar) and sucralose (sucrose with added sugar). The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and was funded by the U.S.

- What kills ant instantly?
- What happens if ants drink soda?
- Why is there ants in my urine?
- What is the best homemade ant killer?
- What do ants hate the most?
- What happens when ants eat baking soda?

What kills ant instantly?

Pour boiling water into the ant holes. This method will kill a lot of the ants in the area. If you see ants in your yard, you may want to try a few of these methods to see if they work for you.

What happens if ants drink soda?

Coke is sweet and attracts ants. The acid in the drink is too strong for the ants, and they die. ants are not interested in soda. Ants have a taste for sugar, but they don't like to eat it. Ants will eat anything that they can get their mouth on, including other ants. They will also eat fruit, flowers, leaves, seeds, insects and other insects. Some ants will even eat their own feces.

Why is there ants in my urine?

Diabetes is a condition of high blood sugars. If levels are high, the blood sugar begins to accumulate in the body and end up in the urine. Urine-attracting ants may be the first sign that something is amiss. Ants are not the only animals that can be affected by diabetes.

Humans can develop diabetes if they have a genetic mutation that causes the body to produce too much insulin, a hormone that helps regulate blood sugar levels. People with type 1 diabetes can also develop the condition if their pancreas does not produce enough insulin. The condition is also known as 'insulin-dependent diabetes' (IDDM) and is the most common form of diabetes in developed countries.

What is the best homemade ant killer?

Take a spray bottle and fill it with equal parts of white vinegar and water. The ants should be sprayed with the solution. You can make a mixture of dish soap and water by putting it in a spray bottle and shaking it. The entrance and exit points of ants should be sprayed with it.

What do ants hate the most?

Ants don't like cayenne pepper or black pepper. A solution of pepper and water can be sprayed near the entrant areas. The pepper wouldn't kill the ants, but it would deter them from coming back to your house. If you don't have a spray bottle, you can make your own by mixing 1/4 cup of baking soda with 2 cups of water.

Spray the entire area with the mixture and let it sit for a few minutes. This will kill any ants that may have been living in the spray area. If you are using pepper spray, be sure to keep it out of reach of children and pets.

What happens when ants eat baking soda?

Baking soda is believed to dry out ants' bodies after they ingest it. Ants will die after eating baking soda. Baking soda should be sprinkled over the ants and left on for at least 30 minutes. If you don't have time to do this, you can also use vinegar to kill ants. Vinegar is acidic, so it will kill any ants that come in contact with it.

You can buy vinegar at your local grocery store, or make your own by mixing equal parts vinegar and water in a small saucepan. Let it sit for a minute or two, then pour the mixture into a jar and store it in the refrigerator for up to a week.

Will club soda control fire ants? – Ant Pests

Video of Club Soda Does Not Kill Fire Ants Says Walter Reeves (video by Paul Nester)

The answer is NO.

Fire ant control using club soda was recently tested and found to be ineffective.

For a thorough discussion of club soda as a home remedy and how it has been debunked, view the following post from the blog *Insects in the City: Club soda for your ants, Sir?* and this article from *Texas AgriLife Extension*.

It is interesting how many so-called fire ant cures have been suggested. Many have been scientifically tested in replicated university trials. The club soda home remedy, like many others, seems attractive because it is environmentally sound and uses a readily available product. It has a seeming basis in fact, because carbon dioxide in high concentrations is known to be lethal to many organisms. However, the quantity of carbon dioxide generated from a club soda drench would not be sufficient to replace the air in a colony that may extend 12 feet underground. The club soda drench might make the colony move because the fire ants do not like being disturbed.

Related

- Do any of the home remedies for eliminating imported fire ants work?
- VIDEO: Fire Ant Control Made Easy
- Managing Imported Fire Ants in Urban Areas Learning Lesson.
- Customized Fire Ant Management Decision Tool
- Museum of Novel Fire Ant Control Methods and Products

Does Baking Soda Kill Ants? Yes! And Here is How to Use it

Ask us the question, does baking soda kill ants? And we'll tell you yes, it does.

Here in this guide, we will run you through everything you need to know about removing these little critters from your life using this natural ant killer.

It is one of the simplest and most effective ways that we know works. And being a kitchen pantry staple, you can get a box of baking soda for under \$1.

So, whether you have an infestation in the kitchen, or they are taking over your shed, we'll show you how to get rid of them once and for all.

What did Pink Panther say when he stepped on an ant? Dead ant, dead ant ... dead ant, dead ant, dead ant ...

Dad jokes aside, this is precisely what you'll be singing once you've read our simple guide. So, let's get started!

What You'll Learn

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- 2 Does Baking Soda Kill Ants?
- 3 How Does Baking Soda Kill Ants?
- 4 How Long Does It Take Baking Soda to Kill Ants?
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What is Baking Soda?

Baking soda is a chemical base compound, which also goes by the name bicarbonate of soda.

It is a naturally occurring salt that comprises of sodium cation and a bicarbonate anion, and its scientific formula is NaHCO_3 .

Baking Soda is a staple found in most of our kitchen pantries, as it is commonly used in day-to-day baking and other home recipes. It looks like a fine white powder, and it has an alkaline taste to it.

Many people think that it is the same as baking powder, but make no mistake, it is very different, and it won't be effective in killing ants. To put it into perspective, baking soda is 4x stronger than baking powder.

Baking soda has a few other uses too. Such as making old books smell less musty, being the main component of the 'black snake' firework, as well as being used in whitening toothpaste.

Does Baking Soda Kill Ants?



Yes, baking soda does kill ants, and it is one of the easiest and cheapest ways of getting rid of them once and for all. It is a good, safe alternative to chemical based, commercial ant killers.

But, leaving a trail of baking soda on its own is unlikely to be effective. Simply because ants aren't attracted to it. It's almost as if they know what you're up to, and they'll run right around it, leaving you more frustrated.

With this in mind, you need to trick them. Just mix it with something that ants love, and just like most of us humans, they love sugar.

It has to be powdered sugar, though, or confectioners sugar, because it has a similar consistency to baking soda.

Ants are known to be clever little critters, and they'll sift through your mix and only eat the sugar if it's a different size.

Thankfully, powdered sugar is another home staple that you will most likely have to hand already. So mix sugar and baking soda to make an effective bait.

How Does Baking Soda Kill Ants?

Well, let me explain this by taking you back to your school science lessons.

Do you remember when you mixed baking soda (base compound) with vinegar (acid) and created an eruption of bubbles? Well, the bubbles are a chemical reaction, and it is this reaction that releases carbon dioxide.

So, when ants digest the baking soda, it reacts with the acid in their digestive system, and they die.

Some say that it makes them explode, but this dramatic claim doesn't convince us. What we do know is that it dries out their body and they die – a bit like when you put salt on a slug – and is a similar solution to ants as using diatomaceous as an ant killer.

The ants that you see marching around are called worker ants, and thankfully for you, they are natural scavengers. Their job is to collect food from outside of the colony and bring it back into the nest to feed the others.

So, unknowingly they will collect your baking soda and sugar mixture and march it straight back into the nest to kill all the other ants too.

Hopefully, the queen ant will tuck in too. If she eats it, you will not have another infestation problem from this particular gang as there will be no more baby ants. Hoorah!

How Long Does It Take Baking Soda to Kill Ants?

Once eaten, it can take a few minutes for the solution to hit their stomach. This means that they have a few minutes to get it back to their colony.

That's why you should, if you can, locate the nest and sprinkle the solution around that too. It massively increases the chance of the ants carrying plenty back to the rest of them rather than dying on the return journey.

So to get rid of ants entirely with baking soda, make sure to locate the nest and surround it closely with your homemade bait.

How Effective is it?

Baking soda and sugar are very effective. As long as you put enough down for them to eat and take back, it should resolve your issue the first time you do it.

If you find that it hasn't worked, the likelihood is you didn't put enough mixture down, or that you have a second ant colony somewhere.

Simply do it again, with more of the mixture, and try a few extra potential high-traffic areas.

If you have a colossal nest, try placing a good inch of the mixture into an empty pop can. The abundance of sugar will be enough to attract them, but also keep it from your pooches and little ones. Place the can next to the nest and let it do its thing.

Of course, the more areas you target and the more cans or jar lids you expose them too, the more successful it is going to be. We'll explain the jar lids thing in a minute.

If you find the baking soda solution really isn't working (even though it should!), then perhaps it's time to use something a little stronger in a store-bought ant trap and bait. I know it's not natural and not ideal, but sometimes you've got to bring out the big guns. And there are plenty of child and pet safe ant killers too.

Benefits of Using Baking Soda to Kill Ants

There are many reasons why we advocate using baking soda to kill ants. Let's take a look at the three biggest reasons why:

Cheap products – being able to get baking soda and confectioners sugar from the grocery store for under a dollar each is super cheap. Especially when comparing it to the commercial ant pesticides.

Readily available – suddenly got an ant infestation? Whip it out of your pantry and mix it up. Within minutes you could have a solution to your problem without having to ride out to the nearest hardware store.

Safest method – you don't have to purchase any harsh chemicals or pesticides and store them around the home or shed. Not only that, but when placing harsh chemicals onto the ground, there is a risk that kids and pets can touch and ingest it, and they are toxic. So this is the safest method used.

Related: Vinegar can be used to repel ants naturally

Is Baking Soda Pet Safe and Kid Safe?



Despite your baking soda concoction being able to kill thousands of ants, it is not harmful to children or pets in the quantities that you'll be making it. It just won't taste very nice, but thankfully it's non-toxic.

Just be sure not to leave the cup out, or pile mounds of the mixture onto the nest, because it can cause an upset tummy if several large spoonfuls are consumed.

Unlike commercial pesticides, baking soda is non-irritating, so even if your pet or kids touches it, it will not cause any skin issues.

If you can put baking soda and sugar into cakes, or toothpaste, you can be sure that it is safe to be digested in small amounts.

Is Baking Soda Biologically Friendly?

Baking soda is an eco-friendly compound that is known to be safe for the environment. Much safer than the commercial products made from harsh chemicals.

It is used in various eco-friendly home cleaning products that all make their way into the environment.

It is made from naturally occurring ingredients, mined from salt beds. The only negative angle you could raise about it is the process of mining it, as well as transporting it in trucks to grocery stores near you. This all has an impact on our carbon footprint.

Thankfully, from the main salt bed in Wyoming alone, there is enough of the natural salt to last us over 2,300 years. So don't worry about salt reserves drying up anytime soon.

How to Use Baking Soda to Kill Ants

Follow these simple steps:

1. Mix equal parts of baking soda and confectioners sugar in a cup. How much mixture you make is dependent on the scale of your ant infestation. But one cup is more than plenty to spread around for your average ant incomers.
2. Find where your high-traffic areas are. If it's through a crack into your kitchen, place the mixture into the crack and around the entrance. If you have ants in your cupboards and you're not sure where they're coming from, place the mixture into a shallow container (a jar lid will do) and leave one in each cupboard.
 - If you know where the nest is, sprinkle the mixture on top of it and around it. Again, if you see any entrances to the nest, put a teaspoon's worth of mix there too.
 - If it has worked and you haven't seen any ants for a few hours, block the gaps that they have used to get into your home so that they cannot get in again. If it hasn't worked, just repeat with a more liberal application of the mix.
 - If you have any leftover mixture, put it into a jar and save it for next time. Just be sure to label the jar clearly so you can find it easily when the next colony decides to invade.

Conclusion

There you have it, another reason that baking soda is a miraculous ingredient that helps us around the home in so many ways.

And now you know how effective it can be to kill ants quickly, inexpensively, and effectively. But most important of all, it is safe for the environment and those around you.

Now that you no longer need to research the best product for getting rid of those annoying little critters, you can spend more time perfecting the Pink Panther tune to sing when they are gone!

Have you tried this mixture? Was it a success? We'd love to hear, so let us know in the comments below.

Fire Ants and Club Soda - Does it work? - J & J Pest Control Termite & Insect Specialist in Austin, Dripping Springs, Wimberley, Round Rock,

Club soda kills fire ants? I don't think so!

Have you received a message about fire ants being killed with club soda delivered to your email box? Or perhaps you came across it while perusing gardening forums on the Internet? It may be drafted as something like this:

“Eddie’s brother Robert Rhoades has discovered an environmentally friendly cure for fire ants that has been announced by Walter Reeves on his Georgia Gardener radio program. Testimonial that it REALLY WORKS are coming in.

Simply pour two cups of CLUB SODA (carbonated water) directly in the center of a fire ant mound. The carbon dioxide in the water is heavier than air and displaces the oxygen which suffocates the queen and the other ants. The whole colony will be dead within about two days.

Here’s the good side: club soda leaves no poisonous residue, does not contaminate the ground water, and does not indiscriminately kill other insects. Each mound must be treated individually and a one liter bottle of club soda will kill 2 to 3 mounds. Spread the word.”

This message has been passed around the Internet via email, gardening forums, picked up by media and all without any scientific testing to back it up. Since I’ve been testing a variety of home remedies for fire ant management the past several years, I decided to run a field trial in 2009 testing the efficacy of club soda as a fire ant mound treatment.

Long story short- it didn’t work. Not the field trial, it went fine, but the CLUB SODA DID NOT WORK. Let me reiterate that point because it’s VERY important. . .pouring club soda onto a fire ant mound did not lead to the ants dying a horrendous death; it did however produce lots of impressive bubbling action.

I’ve been getting a lot of emails in the last month because the club soda/ fire ant myth seems to be gaining popularity again. Mike Merchant has posted about this topic on his blog earlier this week and Walter Reeves has stated that he has not endorsed club soda as a sound treatment for fire ants.

Used with permission from Elizabeth Brown – Entomologist Texas Agrilife Extension Service

Posted in Uncategorized | Comments Off on Fire Ants and Club Soda – Does it work?

Does Baking Soda Kill Ants? Only If You Use It Right...

It makes complete sense that the question, “Does baking soda kill ants?” is asked by homeowners all the time. It’s in most homes already, and many people know people who recommend using it to deal with ant infestations.

But can you really use baking soda to kill ants? Or is it just a myth?

This guide will break down how effective it really is, and the best ways to use it.

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There are many DIY ant killers out there. While most are familiar with natural substances like diatomaceous earth or borax, baking soda is a lesser-known alternative. It’s a staple in kitchen pantries across the world, but does baking soda kill ants?

We’re happy to say that baking soda does indeed kill ants. It’s not just a myth! However, you need to use it properly to see any results.

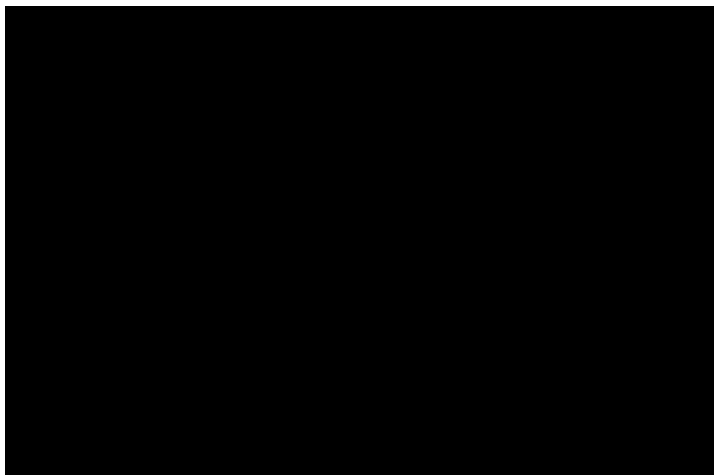
Quick Tip: On its own, baking soda won’t do much to keep ants out. In fact, most don’t like baking soda and will avoid it altogether. If you want to add baking soda to your ant-killing arsenal, you’ll have to pair it with other substances and perform some prep work (more on that later).

Why It Can Kill Them

Chances are, you already have some baking soda lying around your home. This affordable substance has many applications.

It can act as a leavening agent in your baked goods, absorb odors from your fridge, and clean surfaces. Baking soda is also in tons of products you use daily! You can find it in the deodorant that keeps you fresh, the toothpaste that polished your pearly whites, and so much more.

Baking soda is a base compound. It’s scientifically known as sodium bicarbonate. A naturally occurring salt, baking soda is an odorless alkaline substance that reacts with acids to create carbon dioxide.



That light and fluffy texture you get from a perfectly cooked cake? You can thank baking soda and its penchant for creating bubbles for that!

Many people confuse it with baking powder, which is also used in desserts. While they look similar, baking soda is about four times stronger than powder and doesn’t contain any acids.

So, how does baking soda kill ants?

Well, the alkaline nature is what makes it so effective against these insects! When an ant ingests it, the basic compound mixes with the acidic environment of the stomach. Like most living creatures, ants rely on stomach acids to break down food.

Quick Tip: If you've ever performed the classic baking soda and vinegar experiment, you know that the mixture can be devastating.

Most experts agree that ants don't violently explode. However, they do become dehydrated and die out. It's a similar effect to what happens when you pour salt on a slug. The baking soda kills the ant from within, essentially acting as a poison.

Advantages Of Using Baking Soda For Ants

Using baking soda to kill ants is so much more than a myth. Sure, there are plenty of strong chemical products that can address infestations pretty well, but baking soda offers a few benefits that you can't get anywhere else.

First of all, it's completely safe. Baking soda might be lethal to ants and other small insects. But if you, your child, or your pet were to ingest it, nothing would happen. The worst thing you'd experience is a disgusting salty taste.

Aside from that, baking soda is safe. After all, we use it in food!

It's a much safer alternative to chemical-based insecticides and extermination treatments. When you use those, you have to wear protection, make sure your home is ventilated, and keep everyone out for several hours. That's not the case with baking soda.

Another big perk is that it's cheap and readily available! Who wants to pay big bucks for an expensive chemical? As we said earlier, you likely have some baking soda in your home already.

If you don't, take a trip to your local grocery store! You can find a box of it for around a dollar! It's super cheap and won't break the bank to use.

How Long It Typically Takes For Baking Soda To Kill Ants

So here's the thing about baking soda, it's not a contact killer. Some say that applying baking soda to ants directly has similar results to diatomaceous earth. However, most agree that the best way to utilize this basic compound is to use it as bait.

That means to get the best results, ants have to eat it first.

After consuming the baking soda, death for individual ants can occur anywhere between a few minutes to a few hours. Either way, it's not instantaneous.

That might sound like a negative, but it's one of the best things about using baking soda for ants. Scout ants can mistake the substance for food and consume some of it to check that it's safe.

Because it doesn't kill them quickly, the scout will think it's all safe for the colony. In turn, they call worker ants to haul the soda back to the nest.

By the time the first ant to eat it dies, it's already spread to other ants! If you're lucky, it may even make its way to the queen. Once she dies, the rest of the colony will soon follow.

Quick Tip: With baking soda as your main weapon, it will take a few days for infestations to die off if it gets shared with the colony. Smaller nests may take between two to four days to spread the baking soda around. Meanwhile, larger ones can take upwards of a week.

Baking soda takes time to work, but using it to kill ants is actually one of the more consistent extermination methods around.

Effective Mixtures To Try

The key to success when using baking soda to kill ants is making sure it's enticing by mixing it with bait food.

Like we said earlier, baking soda alone isn't going to do much to attract these pests. They don't like it and have no interest in eating plain soda, so most will avoid it and move onto something else.

Fortunately, there are a couple of mixtures to try out. The right mixture for you will depend on the types of ants you're dealing with.

Baking Soda & Powdered Sugar

Powdered sugar is the most common additive to DIY baking soda ant traps. Most ant species gravitate towards sweet food items. Sweets closely mimic the taste of aphid honeydew, so it's an excellent attractor.

Mix equal parts baking soda to equal parts powdered sugar. You may need to add more sugar if you find that the ants don't take it. However, an even ratio is a good place to start.

Baking Soda & Peanut Butter

Some ants prefer to eat proteins! These species often eat decaying animals, bugs, and other protein-rich foods in the wild.

Peanut is a fantastic source of protein. Plus, it has a decent amount of fat in it to attract grease-loving species.

To prepare this safe and natural mixture, use about two tablespoons of baking soda and one tablespoon of peanut butter. You can scale up or down based on how much bait you need. The mixture should be doughy, allowing you to stick it pretty much anywhere.

Baking Soda & Vitamin C

Did you know that some ants are naturally attracted to Vitamin C? However, it's also powerful enough to kill them!

You can use that knowledge to your advantage and create an ultra-effective bait food. Mix equal parts baking soda, Vitamin C powder, and powdered sugar.

Once ingested, the Vitamin C will increase the acidity of the digestive system to make the baking soda even more fatal than it already is.

Baking Soda & Cooking Oil

A simple cooking spray mixture is good for ants that prefer to eat grease (aka grease ants). It's a little messier than the alternatives, but it'll get the trick done nonetheless.

Mix about a teaspoon of oil with an equal amount of baking soda. The mixture should be runny and slightly thicker than the oil alone.

Baking Soda and Vinegar

Finally, we have the good old baking soda and vinegar trick!

This mixture isn't meant to act as a bait trap. Instead, it's used for destroying nests. You can use the two ingredients on mounds you see near your door outside.

Sprinkle the baking soda over the mound and follow up with a healthy pour of vinegar. The explosive reaction should get into every nook and cranny of the nest. Not only that, but the acidity of the

vinegar will damage the ant's exoskeleton.

The damage is so severe that all ants should die pretty quickly from the acidic assault.

How To Use Baking Soda To Kill Ants

Now that you understand a little more about how baking soda kills ants, let's put that knowledge to use! Baking soda is incredibly easy to use. It's cheap, readily available, and flexible enough to work on infestations big and small.

Here's how you can use the all-natural compound to tackle your ant problem.

1. Choose A Mixture

The first thing you should do is choose the right mixture.

Many ant species could potentially invade your home. While they're all a nuisance, not every ant acts the same! These pests have their own preferences and dietary needs.

Understanding what kind of ant you're dealing with will give you some insight into the mixture that works best.

Quick Tip: For example, little black ants enjoy eating protein-based foods. Meanwhile, carpenter ants and Argentine ants like sweets instead.

Carefully observe the ants in your home and do some research about their lifestyle. It also pays to look for established trails or entry points. Once you have all that information noted, you can choose the baking soda mixture that will have the greatest impact.

2. Find The Right Place To Put It

After you make your ant-killing baking soda bait, it's time to apply it.

If you're using a powder-based bait or liquid, place it into a shallow container. The container needs to be easy enough for the ants to scale and enter. A shallow lid works best.

If you're using a peanut butter mixture, you should be able to stick it anywhere. You can use a container to keep things clean, but it's not necessary.

So, where do you put the traps?

The best places are next to known scent trails, nests, or access points. Look around your home and observe the ants carefully. You should see them lining up to travel to and from the nest.

There's a good chance that the insects travel through cracks and voids. They can take advantage of cracks in the foundation, small holes in the walls, and more.

Put the baking soda bait as close to those spots as possible if you want it to kill the ants. The goal is to make the bait accessible and easy enough to carry back to the nest. If the ants have to travel far, they're less likely to take the bait.

Quick Tip: You can also put some bait in high-traffic areas with lots of food and water. For example, kitchen cabinets and pantries are a good choice.

3. Be Patient & Reapply When Needed

Now, it's all about waiting.

Larger colonies can take up to a week to kill with baking soda. Be patient and keep an eye on the ant population in your home.

Hopefully, you'll notice a steep decline in the number of ants you see roaming around. If you don't, consider changing the bait recipe.

Quick Tip: Some ants can be a bit more cautious, so you might have to increase the ratio of the food ingredient. Add a little more powdered sugar or peanut butter to disguise the baking soda and attract the ants.

You can also consider moving the traps or placing a few more.

If you still see ants here and there after a week, reapply the baking soda traps. Bait can become stale after a week. You want it to be as fresh, tasty, and aromatic as possible.

Repeat the applications as much as you need to eradicate all the ants in the area. It can take some time to exterminate them all, so be vigilant!

How To Prevent Ants From Coming Back By Using Baking Soda

Even after you kill the ants with baking soda, there's a chance that they can come back.

Do your part to prevent future infestations from occurring. Seal all cracks and voids. Then, adopt a cleaning schedule to keep your home as unappealing to these insects as possible.

You can also take advantage of baking soda to deter ants from your domain. Sprinkle the soda around the perimeter of your house. Pay special attention to doorways, windows, and any known access points.

Want to go the extra mile? Create some traps to put outside!

The best way to prevent future ant issues is to get rid of ants in your yard. Make large quantities of bait and put them into empty soda cans. The outdoor ants will bring them back to the colony all the same.

Before you know it, your property will be devoid of ants!

How Effective Is Baking Soda For Ants Compared To Other Methods?

As a whole, using baking soda to kill ants is pretty effective. However, it might not work for everyone in all situations.

Ants are living creatures that can act unpredictably. We can guess their behaviors and motivations, but ants don't always behave like we want them to. Some will willingly eat bait food and bring it back to the nest. Others won't.

It's all a matter of trial and error.

The good news is that you can easily experiment with baking soda to get things right. If you're not seeing results with the basic recipes, consider altering them a bit. Add more of the food ingredient to make the natural mixture as enticing to these pests as possible.

You can even try combining recipes to create the ultimate ant-killing cocktail!

If you still don't see success, you can always try other natural ant killers. For example, killing ants with borax is considered to be just as efficient as baking soda. It kills ants in a similar fashion and is adaptable enough to mix with different bait ingredients.

Quick Tip: If all else fails, you can always turn to chemical products. While many homeowners prefer to go the natural route, there's no denying that store-bought insecticides provide quick and reliable results.

We understand it's not ideal. But in the event of a serious infestation that just won't go away, the harsher route might be worth the added efficiency.

How Safe Is It?

Compared to the common alternatives, using baking soda to kill ants is very safe.

We use this stuff in everything from decadent dessert recipes to cosmetics. If it weren't safe, it wouldn't be as prevalent as it is.

Like we said earlier, accidental ingestion is not a problem with baking soda. It has a bitter and salty taste, but you won't experience any dangerous side effects.

Even other natural extermination methods are more dangerous than baking soda. With things like diatomaceous earth and borax, you have to be careful about natural ingestion and inhalation. That's not the case with baking soda.

You can touch it without experiencing any irritation. Compared to all other ant-killing methods, it's probably one of the safest.

Conclusion

Yes, baking soda does kill ants. However, it's important to understand how to use it properly if you want to see success.

We hope you found this guide helpful and feel equipped to tackle your ant problem with this simple ingredient. If you have any questions, let us know!

club soda to kill fire ants??

I just received the following email. Does anyone know if this works or have you heard of it before?

FIRE ANTS

an environmentally friendly cure for fire ants has been announced by Walter Reeves on his Georgia Gardener radio program. Testimonial that it REALLY WORKS are coming in.

Simply pour two cups of CLUB SODA (carbonated water) directly in the center of a fire ant mound. The carbon dioxide in the water is heavier than air and displaces the oxygen which suffocates the queen and the other ants. The whole colony will be dead within about two days.

Here's the good side: club soda leaves no poisonous residue, does not contaminate the ground water, and does not indiscriminately kill other insects. Each mound must be treated individually and a one liter bottle of club soda will kill 2 to 3 mounds.

Club soda won't kill fire ants, but this recipe will

The information in the e-mail sounds too good to be true: Pouring club soda (carbonated water) onto a fire ant mound will kill the ferocious little ankle-biters.

That's the problem: It isn't true. According to entomologists, this false remedy has been making the rounds of e-mail contact lists, blogs and other Internet postings.

One recent version claims that Walter Reeves, a gardening expert and retired University of Georgia cooperative extension agent, advocates club soda to vanquish fire ants. He does not, as he has stated on his Web site, www.walterreeves.com.

A recent flurry of questions about the alleged remedy spurred fire ant experts at Texas A&M to write news releases to post online. One of their colleagues, Elizabeth "Wizzie" Brown, an integrated pest management specialist with Texas AgriLife Extension, tested the club soda remedy last year and found that it did not work. Pouring club soda onto a mound did little more than "produce lots of impressive bubbling action," she said.

People are attracted to this home remedy because it uses a readily available product and does not harm the environment, Texas AgriLife researchers say. Disturbing fire ants by pouring liquid into the nest may cause them to move into other parts of their extensive underground and multiple-mound tunnel system, but club soda won't suffocate the ants with carbon dioxide, says Dr. Mike Merchant, a professor and entomologist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Dallas.

Fire ant baits are the most effective way to control fire ants, and they work best when broadcast over a large area to reach even undetected ants and mounds, Merchant says.

Howard Garrett, who writes a weekly organic gardening column for The Dallas Morning News, estimates he received more than 100 inquiries about the club soda remedy, which he categorizes as wishful thinking. His organic treatment can be mixed in the kitchen or purchased ready to use (dirtdoctor.com). Howard Garrett's fire ant killer

To make Garrett Juice, mix the following in 1 gallon of water:

1 cup compost tea

1 ounce molasses

1 ounce apple cider vinegar

1 ounce liquid seaweed

Add 2 ounces orange oil to a gallon of Garrett Juice and drench the fire ant mound. Repeat as needed.