

Does Laundry Powder Kill Fleas?

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Boric acid, which is an ingredient in laundry powders like 20 Mule Team Borax Detergent Booster, acts as an effective pesticide and will kill fleas. Boric acid is a desiccant that kills fleas by drying them out rather than poisoning them.

Sprinkling laundry powder around the house may not be a good solution for pet owners who want to relieve their furry friends of itchy fleas. Rather, these pet owners should look into using boric acid instead. While it is an effective pesticide, this desiccant may be harmful to mammals, including humans, dogs and cats, so care should be taken when using it as a pesticide.

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Does Laundry Detergent Kill Fleas?

Every home-cum-pet owner asks: does laundry detergent kill fleas? It's a puzzling question since it's uncool hosting fleas on your bed, pets' skins, inside clothes, and other places.

This article explains how the interaction between fleas and the laundry detergent goes, what it yields, and more. But before we delve into the fine details, we need to grok fleas, how they affect us, their survival tactics, et cetera.



Read on.

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What Are Fleas?

They're small, fascinating insects that mostly live and feed on pets. The tiny insects will survive on their host's blood, dandruff, broken skin, and other particles.

You can also find fleas on your carpet, clothes, in the yard, and other warm and shaded places. They'll survive away from their hosts, too, for quite some days (mostly before they get to the adult stage).

Fleas have a life span of 100 days, but this is enough for a few of them to multiply into scads! On average, one flea can reproduce between 500 and 2000 more!

When they land on your skin, these insects will cause an irritating and or itchy feeling. Fleas also bite, and their bites can cause diseases and disorders depending on the underlying individual's skin reactivity.

A common effect of flea bites is the allergy dermatitis, which consists of inflamed rashes on the human skin. Another consequence (on animals) could be anemia. The insects feed on blood, and an excessive number on the skin is likely to lower the blood count of the host.

There are even more effects, but it's now easy to see that these insects aren't worth living together with. That's why it's essential to know how to get rid of them.

How They Enter Our Clothes

You already know that adult fleas will mostly be found on pets. However, their eggs, larvae, and pupae are also found on carpets, furniture, and other places. If your clothes come in contact with these places, they'll pick up fleas as well. Fleas can also get into your clothes from your body, the pet, and other areas.

How They Interact With Detergent

The laundry detergent works to kill fleas in many ways. We'll explain each of them below.

Adult fleas are often very light. They take advantage of this feature — and the fact that water has a surface tension — to stay on top of the water without submerging. When laundry detergent and or soap interacts with water, it breaks the surface tension.

Consequently, fleas present can no longer float but sink and later die inside water. This is only one way through which the laundry detergent kills fleas. Read on.

Fleas often have a waxy coating on their bodies. The wax protects them against chemical and mechanical injuries, and attacks from parasites — not to mention dehydration.

When the waxy coating interacts with laundry detergent, the detergent destroys it, leaving the flea defenceless from quite several dangers. The fleas can, therefore, die due to many causes, including attacks from other insects.

Fleas can also die when the laundry detergent used against them contains antimicrobial properties. Such detergents kill the insects via a complex chemical reaction without a worry.

Other Effective Ways To Remove Fleas Using The Laundry Detergent

Use Hot Water Alongside The Laundry Detergent

The detergent used (apart from the one with antimicrobial properties) may fail to kill the targeted fleas. Adding hot water can, therefore, help to complete the process.

Fleas in all stages cannot survive above 35°C. The mechanical action of hot water works to kill the fleas without a second thought.

Set your washing machine to administer a hot wash to your clothes alongside using laundry detergent. Always ensure that you follow the user's guide on the detergent's label to avoid any trouble using the underlying detergent.



Vacuum Your House Regularly

Vacuuming your house often works in many ways to get rid of fleas. It can sweep away all the tiny flea eggs from your floor to the outdoors, where high temperatures are likely to kill them.

Also, it can clean away all the debris that the fleas often feed on, leaving them to die of hunger.

After a few days, however, you'll likely see fleas again in your house. Don't worry; repeat the processes. Vacuuming, in the long run, may finally do away with the fleas forever.

Ensure that you vacuum hidden parts of the house. A great addition to vacuuming is properly doing regular cleaning to keep the house smelling fresh and clean.

Comb Your Pet

Flea combs are tools used to physically remove and or kill fleas hidden inside your pet's fur. The process simply involves combing the pet gently and observing if the fleas are actually coming out before dropping them in hot water with soap.

To do it effectively, start by preparing the small combing area — which you'll need to cover with newspapers (to trap additional fleas) — which

Fleas like warm temperatures (optimally in the range of 65 to 80 deg F) with relative humidity, all of which are readily available in human clothing. They often jump off and latch onto their animal hosts to get a blood meal, but in the absence of animals, the fleas can also bite and feed off humans.

Today, fleas are found in urban residential areas, classrooms in schools, rental apartments which previously housed pets and even grassy hiking trails or wooded areas. Fleas can even come from possums, squirrels, raccoons, birds and feral cats. For that reason, it is essential for everyone to understand how to remove and kill fleas in clothes effectively.

How to get rid of fleas in clothes



You can try washing flea infested clothes in regular temperature or cold water first, however, to remove flea larvae and flea eggs in clothes, it is best to follow some stringent and more effective laundry techniques.

1. Use bleach mixed with water

For clothes that can withstand bleach, use diluted bleach in water and immerse the flea infested clothes in the solution. For machine wash, it is recommended mixing 1 cup of chlorine bleach per 16 gallons of water. Bleach can kill and disinfect clothes to remove most fleas and their eggs.

2. Use max settings on your washing machine

Use the highest water setting, hottest temperature and longest wash cycle allowed by your washing machine for clothes that can withstand this harsh treatment. This is a sure-fire method for removing fleas in clothes and can kill eggs and fleas in their larval stages.

3. Use antimicrobial detergent

For clothes that are not bleach-safe, you can use detergents with antimicrobial action or pine oil and other phenolic disinfectants. To use these in washing machines, add 1 cup to top loading machines and ½ cup to front loading machines.

Instructions

1. Check if your clothes can withstand bleach
2. Mix 1 cup of chlorine bleach with 16 gallons of water
3. Wash the clothes on max water, temperature and wash cycle setting
4. If your clothes are not bleach-safe, use antimicrobial detergent (top loading machines: 1 cup, front loading machines: ½ cup)

The integrated pest control program

Did you know that only 10% of fleas found inside a household are adults, while the remaining 90% are in various life cycle stages, like eggs and larvae?

Naturally, even if you follow the methods mentioned above for removing fleas from your clothes, you must also use an integrated pest control program to ensure complete flea elimination. This includes managing habitats of host animals, destroying resident fleas and preventing new infestations. Here are some effective ways to accomplish this:

1. Vacuum daily



Vacuum your entire house including all rugs, carpets and especially hard-to-access areas, like behind and under the furniture.

It is important that you seal the vacuum bags and immediately discard them outside the home afterwards.

2. Wash and launder regularly



Apart from washing your clothes using the steps given above, wash and clean your pet's bedding and all household linen including towels, bed sheets, curtains, mattress covers, blankets and comforters etc. and if needed, opt for having these dry cleaned or professionally treated. You can even take bulky linen to the Laundromat for some heavy duty cleaning.

3. Protect your pets



Flea foggers, powders and sprays as well as spot treatment for pets is an important part of integrated pest control.

You can talk to your vet about the right oral or topical flea medicines to stop fleas from laying eggs and reproducing.

4. Try natural flea products



Treatment using naturally occurring flea products is another way of getting rid of flea eggs in carpets and rugs.

The most effective ones include diatomaceous earth powders and borax powders.

It is important to remember that flea eggs can remain dormant inside your home for a very long time, even during the winter. For this reason, I recommend all year round flea control if you live in an area that is heavily infested with fleas.

Wear protective clothes to prevent flea bites



While the flea treatment is taking place, you and your family can protect yourselves by wearing clothes that prevent fleas from biting you. Lighter colored clothes generally provide fewer hiding places than darker ones. You can also wear long trousers and full sleeved shirts as well as thick socks to stop the flea bites. Additionally, you must wash all these items as mentioned above to ensure the complete removal of fleas in your clothes.

Laundry Detergent That Kills Fleas - Pest Phobia





Febreze Laundry Detergent Additive for Pet Supplies, Maximum Strength In Wash Pet Odor Eliminator, Designed to Remove Tough Odors in Fabrics and Clothing in a Single Wash, Fresh Scent, 98 floz

Price : \$21.83 (\$0.22 / Fl Oz)

- Features :
- You will receive (1) bottle of Febreze In Wash Pet Odor Eliminator, Fresh Scent, 98oz
 - ELIMINATES ODORS FROM THE SOURCE: Removes the toughest of pet odors instead of masking them. Add to your laundry detergent to remove common odors like pet urine found in dog clothes, cat and dog beds, car

seat covers, couch covers, pet carriers, dog collars, sofa covers and more!

- FOR BEST RESULTS: Pretreat hard-to-remove odors by placing the item in hot water, add 1 capful of Febreze In Wash Pet Odor Eliminator and soak. Continue with normal wash. For Light Odors use 1 capful. For Heavy, use 1 1/2 capfuls. For Extreme Odors, use up to 2 capfuls.
- SAFE TO USE WITH LAUNDRY DETERGENT PODS, LIQUID LAUNDRY DETERGENT, FABRIC SOFTENERS, BLEACHES, ETC: Febreze In Wash Odor Eliminator is safe to use with regular and high efficiency (HE) washing machines in combination with any of your laundry cleaning supplies. For commercial, janitorial or personal use
- ADD TO YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO SAVE TODAY AND NEVER RUN OUT
- PROUDLY MADE IN THE USA BY NEHEMIAH MANUFACTURING CO, A SECOND CHANCE COMPANY: Every purchase helps provide jobs for Second Chance Employees.

Additional Info :

Color No Color Item Dimensions Height 7.59 Inches Width 4.5 Inches Length 11.25 Inches Release Date 2020-02-28T00:00:01Z



Bed Bug & Mite Killer Laundry Detergent Additive by Premo Guard – 32 oz – Child & Pet Friendly – Stain & Odor Free – Best Natural Treatment – Industry Approved – Satisfaction Guarantee

Features :

- SAFE AND NATURAL. Produces results. Safe to use on bedding, liners, and washer safe clothing. Safe for use around children and pets. All our products are third party tested and approved.
- STAIN AND SCENT FREE. Chemical free with no harmful fumes. Rest easy knowing you family is bug free and clean. Powerful pest treatment laundry additive for household and commercial use.
- PROVEN INSECT KILLER. Tested and proven to eliminate bedbugs, dust mites, spider mites, bird mites, mold mites, fleas, and ticks. Kills adults, nymphs, and eliminates eggs. We ensure our products are supplied from Certified Natural Products Association (NPA) and Approved Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facilities.
- GREEN AND EASY TO USE . The product may be used with or without regular soap detergent. Contains all-natural ingredients to eliminate bed bugs on liners, clothes and other washable items.
- CLICK THE ORANGE ADD TO CART. Click The Orange Add To Cart. When you order Premo Bed Bug, Lice & Mite Laundry Additive today you will receive excellent customer service and are protected by our money back guarantee!

Additional Info :

Item Dimensions Height 10 Inches Width 3 Inches Length 3 Inches



Lysol Laundry Sanitizing Liquid, Laundry Detergent Additive For Clothes And Linens, Eliminates Odor Causing Bacteria, Crisp Linen, 90Oz

Price : \$9.79 (\$0.11 / Ounce)

Features :

- Tested and Proven to Kill COVID-19 Virus (Kills SARS-CoV-2 during pre-soak conditions in 5 minutes), EPA Reg No.777-128
- Kills 99.9% of bacteria detergents leave behind (When used as directed)
- Contains 0% bleach, works even in cold water
- Works in all standard and HE washing machines
- Suitable for use on baby clothes, gym clothes, undergarments, towels, bedding, delicates

Additional Info :

Item Dimensions Height 11.31 Inches Width 7.5 Inches Length 4.16 Inches Weight 5.625 Pounds Release Date 2016-01-01T00:00:01Z



Earth Breeze Laundry Detergent Sheets – Fresh Scent – No Plastic Jug (60 Loads) 30 Sheets, Liquidless Technology

Price : \$15.99 (\$0.27 / Load)

Features :

- THE SAME POWERFUL CLEAN – Earth Breeze will clean just as great if not better than leading brand detergent.
- FORMULATED FOR SENSITIVE SKIN – Our Eco Sheets were made for your sensitive skin. This means they are hypoallergenic, vegan, bleach-free, paraben-free, and phosphate-free.
- SAVE SO MUCH SPACE – Those big plastic jugs are bulky! You can fit 12 packs of Earth Breeze in the same space as 1 plastic jug.
- DON'T WASTE – Laundry jugs come in giant plastic containers that take up to 1000 years to decompose. They even contain up to 90% water! Earth Breeze comes in plastic free packaging and uses the water from the machine to dissolve the sheets.
- REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT – Earth Breeze package is so lightweight and compact that you will reduce your carbon footprint simply by switching from bulky, heavy detergent..

Additional Info :

Does Detergent Kill Fleas and Other Nasty Bugs? | All About Detergents

Are you also sick of the fleas that kept on getting stuck in your clothes? This is a common problem with so many people throughout the world. People who own pets are more likely to encounter these nasty bugs.

You can get rid of these nasty bugs simply by washing clothes in laundry detergent. Washing the clothes in hot water along with a quality detergent actually kills off all the fleas from your clothes.

In order to get rid of such bugs, you need to look for the host through which they are spreading in your home. Once found, you can use simple things like laundry detergent to get rid of them.

Infruriated about these bugs invading your life? This article will be helpful for you if you are finding a way to get rid of fleas. Stick to the end to find some effective ways.

How Do Fleas Spread to Clothes?



If you are a dog or cat owner, it is most likely that these pets are the reason for spreading fleas in your home. Fleas can get to the skin of your pets from outside. Dogs and cats act as a host for these nasty creatures.

Once these insects make their way to pets, they can easily spread around your home. This happens mainly due to the reproductive cycle of these fleas. When fleas lay eggs, they do not get stuck in the hair of pets. Rather, the eggs fall off the surface as they are smooth.

This is the reason you can spot flea eggs everywhere in your house. They can be on your clothes, closet, carpet, floor, dressing, and anywhere you can imagine.

You will find adult fleas always close to the host. They are in need of food, that is, blood, which is why fleas can be found in the bedding of your pets or on their skin.

After the eggs hatch, they invade your clothes. When you wear them, you become their host; thus, fleas start feeding on your blood.

How to Get Rid of Fleas?

You need to treat everything with chemicals where there is the slightest chance of flea eggs' existence.

Laundry Detergent



So far, laundry detergent has proven best in killing insects that can be found on your clothes. If you don't want to use detergent, simply wash your clothes in hot water at a temperature around 35°C. Heat is capable of killing all kinds of small bugs and their larvae.

If you want something more effective and get the clothes all clean from bugs, add a small amount of laundry detergent to the washing machine. The presence of boric acid in detergent is what makes it effective against bugs.

Boric acid doesn't act as a poison; rather, it dries out the bugs and ultimately kills them. Within a few minutes, all of them will be killed.

For the remaining exoskeletons, you can shake off your clothes to get rid of them completely.

It is a good idea to wash all the curtains, bed sheets, tablecloths and garments in detergent. In the case of sensitive clothes, do not add detergent. Just keep them in hot water.

Proper washing of clothes can kill all the adult fleas and larvae, leaving behind their dead bodies.

Wash Everything with Detergent

Doing laundry alone will not help you get rid of these bugs. You need to disinfect and wash everything in your home. Eggs of fleas can be found anywhere in the house.

You can use powder detergent, as it is cheaper, to clean the sink, kitchen, floors, washbasin, and bathroom in your house. Instead of sprinkling powder detergent everywhere in the house, the best decision is to wash things with detergent.

To clean the bathroom with laundry detergent, sprinkle a cup full of detergent in the bathroom. Let it stay there for 15 to 20 minutes.

After that, wash off the bathroom with a brush and run water. Not only will this be helpful in getting rid of bugs, but it will also remove stains and help you get rid of bad odors.

You will be astonished by the clean results.

Related Reading: [Can Bacteria Survive After a Clothes Wash?](#) [Laundry Detergent: Before or After Clothes?](#)

Can Washing Machine Drown the Bugs?



Washing machine alone cannot do the job we are looking for, which is why it is necessary to add hot water and laundry detergent. Even if you only add water to the washer, there are chances that fleas and other bugs would still survive. This is why it is necessary to add detergent to it. The presence of boric acid in the detergent helps us achieve our goals.

Borates are found in powdered detergents to enhance enzyme stabilization, ultimately removing stains. Boric acid also acts as a disinfectant, bug killer, deodorizer, and cleanser.

Due to its bug-killing property, boric acid is added in dishwashing soaps, glass cleaners, and whatnot.

Other Ways to Kill Fleas Instantly



Though laundry detergent is the most effective and readily available option to kill fleas on clothes. There are other methods that you can try to exterminate the flea cycle.

Bleach Water

Bleach water is an effective solution to go against fleas. It can be used at a variety of places like furniture, sink, bathrooms, couches, floors, and beds. Make sure to buy color-safe bleach to protect everything from its harsh effects.

To clean the furniture with bleach water, you can simply make a solution of bleach and add it to a spray bottle. Spray a sufficient amount of bleach on the desired place and wipe it with a paper towel.

Other than furniture, you can also clean bed and couches with bleach water. Also, instead of adding conventional laundry detergent, you can add bleach to the clothes while washing them. This will bring equally good results, thus exterminating the cycle of fleas.

Flea Repelling Plants

There are many plants that effectively repel fleas and keep your homes free from them. These plants do not kill them. The strong smell of these plants makes them effective repellants.

You can place such plants on your lawn, balconies, and even indoors. Lavender, citrus, clove, and peppermint are some of the best flea repelling plants.

You will be happy to keep them at home as you do not have to put so much energy every day just in ensuring precautions against these nasty bugs.

Herbal Flea Spray

If you are looking for a more natural solution to these fleas instead of going with chemically manufactured detergents, you can make your own herbal flea spray at home out of very few ingredients.

You will need a strong natural plant fragrance that can be your favorite plant. Lavender is the most recommended one in this case. Essential oil or any other natural oil of your choice is also needed. Along with that, you will need apple cider vinegar.

Take one cup of apple cider vinegar, a few drops of essential oil, and peppermint or lavender fragrance. Add all these ingredients to a spray bottle and fill it to the end with water. Mix the ingredients really well.

You can spray this flea repellant everywhere in the house. This will be really helpful in eradicating the bugs from your home. Since it is made with all-natural ingredients, you don't need to be afraid of any side effects.

Boric Acid

It is the main ingredient used in laundry detergents, known for killing molds and bugs. Boric acid works by drying out the stomach of these fleas, which ultimately leads them to death.

Boric acid is the most effective chemical against these bugs as they cannot develop immunity against it. Moreover, it is not a repellant, so these bugs do not avoid places where there is boric acid.

Boric acid is present in laundry detergent. One way is to use detergent to keep off fleas from clothes. However, for floors, furniture, and other such places at home, you have to use boric acid in liquid or powdered form.

Mix boric acid with flour in equal amounts and sprinkle it all around the house, especially in corners that are the home for fleas. However, in order to clean furniture, beds, and couches, you can make a solution.

Mix boric acid with water and pour it into a spray bottle. Spray it everywhere in your house.

In Conclusion

Fleas can invade your whole house in no time once they reach your pets. Before they get out of control, it is necessary to deal with them.

Washing clothes alone will not be helpful in eradicating these nasty creatures. You need to sanitize everything and take care of every corner of the house to completely eliminate them.

Regularly wash your clothes in hot water with laundry detergent. Make sure that the detergent you are using contains boric acid. Otherwise, it might not be much beneficial.

Even after eradicating the bugs from your house, you should be vigilant. Your pets can bring fleas with them again in your house. The best precaution is to shower your pets regularly and keep a check on them.