

BARRIER TREATMENTS

HOW THEY WORK

- Broad-spectrum insecticide applied around areas where ants are to be excluded.
- As ants and other insects crawl over the treated areas, they come into contact with the toxin and are killed. Has a **residual effect**; can last for months.



WHEN TO USE

- When choosing a residual barrier, **read the label carefully** to make sure it is right for your situation and to know how to properly use the product for effective pest control.
- If ants are entering your home, you can **apply a continuous barrier treatment around the perimeter of your home**. Trim back any vegetation touching your home since ants can use a tree branch as a bridge over your barrier to enter your home.
- If you are bringing in high-risk items likely to harbor Little Fire Ants (LFA) such as potted plants, cuttings, foliage, soil, mulch, and landscaping material, quarantine these items on a site on your property while you test for the presence of LFA. You can **spray a barrier treatment as a swath throughout your quarantine area** to kill any LFA that may crawl out of these materials onto your property.

WHEN NOT TO USE

- **Do not apply a barrier treatment over your entire property as method to control LFA.** The trail of ants we see walking around are only the older workers out and about looking for food. The other 90% of the colony is out of view tucked away in the nest. Killing off these older worker ants just means the queens will lay some more eggs. This often leads to a cycle of spraying to gain temporary relief, a fast recovery by the ants, and spraying again. Therefore, solely relying on residual barriers to control for LFA means you are having little impact on the infestation overall. The best way to manage LFA around your home, is to treat your entire property with a bait.
- **Do not apply a barrier treatment at the same time as a bait**, because the ants carrying the baits back to the nest will be killed before they have a chance to share it with the colony. Always apply a barrier treatment a few days after you have applied a bait.

PRODUCT EXAMPLES

- **Residual barriers come in liquid and granular form.** Liquid barriers may be purchased either in a ready-to-use formula or in a concentrated form that needs to be diluted before use. Granular barriers need to be watered lightly with a hose after application to be activated; do not water to the point of run-off. Do not make applications during rain; you don't know when it will stop or if it will get too diluted.
- **It is easy to confuse granular barriers with granular baits** (i.e. Amdro, Antixx, Pro bait, etc.), so it is important to read the label carefully. The active ingredient list in a barrier will usually contain one or more chemicals with names ending in "-thrin", like "bifenthrin", "cyfluthrin", etc. Granular barriers also need to be watered in, while water often inactivates baits.

Liquid (ready-to-use)



Ortho® Home Defense

Spectracide® Bug Stop

Granular (need to be watered in)



Talstar® PL

Spectracide® Ant Shield

Liquid (concentrated)



Bifen I/T

Talstar® P



Terro® Ant Killer

Bifen L/P