

## 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 Unit: 28427
- Department of Agriculture: 27355

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

- ECM (Earwig Control—Mike McLeod): 55001

### 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 baited 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.