

Metaldehyde is nonirritating to the intact or abraded skin of a rabbit. Also, a 10% aqueous metaldehyde suspension is nonirritating when introduced under the eyelid of a rabbit.

Metaldehyde gives off vapors to which rats were exposed for one hour at room temperature. The maximum concentration which could be reached was 6.25 mg/liter. A slight narcotic effect was observed, but the animals recovered fully within two hours after removal from the exposure area.

If poisons such as chlordane or calcium arsenate are included in metaldehyde formulations, the hazards of the products to humans and to domestic animals may be increased markedly by these additives. Take precautions appropriate to the additives present.

Handling and Storage

Although metaldehyde is a solid, it does have an appreciable vapor pressure at ordinary temperatures and will sublime. Metaldehyde and metaldehyde formulations therefore should be stored in a cool place so that their effectiveness will not be lost during storage. Avoid contact with moisture as well as heat, since these conditions favor depolymerization of metaldehyde. Storage for long periods of time is not recommended.

Metaldehyde will burn if ignited and should be kept away from fire or open flames. Follow good housekeeping practices in plants where metaldehyde is processed and avoid the presence of metaldehyde dust.

As in handling any pesticide, avoid repeated or prolonged contact of metaldehyde with skin and prolonged inhalation of dusts, mists, and vapors. Wear clean, dry clothing, and launder clothing

daily. After handling metaldehyde, wash hands and face before eating or smoking. Avoid spilling metaldehyde on the skin and keep it out of the eyes, nose, and mouth. If any is spilled, wash it off the skin immediately with soap and water. If metaldehyde gets in the eyes, flush with plenty of water and get medical attention.

Additional precautions, including special protective clothing or devices, must be taken when handling mixtures of metaldehyde with other pesticides. Thoroughly wash all equipment after use.

All pesticides should be kept in closed, well-labeled containers, in a dry place, where they will not contaminate food or feed, and where children and animals cannot reach them.

CSC Specifications

Purity as metaldehyde (min.)	99.0% by wt
Residue on ignition (max.)	0.2% by wt
Readily-volatile matter (max.)	0.5% by wt

Properties of Pure Metaldehyde

Molecular weight (calc.)	176.12
Melting point (sealed tube)	246°C
Sublimation point (approx.)	112°C
Partially depolymerizes with regeneration of acetaldehyde	
Heat of combustion	11,590 Btu lb
Solubility:	
In water at 25°C	Insoluble
In ethyl alcohol at 70°C	1.8 g 100 ml
In diethyl ether at 35°C	0.5 g 100 ml

Container

44-gallon fiber drum	120 lb net wt
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(Müller), *O. draparnaldi* (Beck), *O. helveticus* (Blum), and *O. alliarius* (Miller).

When slug or snail damage is suspected, look for these pests in the soil around the plants or under boards and trash. At night they may be found on the surface of the soil or feeding on the plants. If the pests are found, the use of metaldehyde dusts, sprays, or baits is indicated. Metaldehyde is unique in being both an attractant and a toxicant for slugs and snails, and it therefore can be used very effectively in controlling these pests as described in the following sections.

Suggested Uses on Food Crops

BAITS

Baits formulated with from 1% to 20% of metaldehyde have effective attractant properties; the higher levels are more effective as toxicants. In order to increase the lethal effects of the baits at low metaldehyde concentration, other pesticides such as calcium arsenate or chlordane may be incorporated by the formulator according to his label registration.

Uses of metaldehyde baits at rates of 1.5 to 20 pounds of metaldehyde per acre are registerable by the Environmental Protection Agency as **nonfood uses** of the pesticide when the baits are applied to the soil surface around vegetable crops in field or greenhouse, on the soil around the trees in avocado or citrus orchards, on the soil around blackberry, blueberry, boysenberry, dewberry, loganberry, or raspberry plants, and on the soil around banana plants. Take care to avoid contamination of the edible parts of the plants.

Slugs often feed on ripening **strawberries**, causing serious economic loss to the grower. These pests can be controlled very effectively by applying metaldehyde baits to the ground around the strawberry plants at a rate not to exceed 9.5 pounds of metaldehyde per acre. The bait may be placed in mounds near the plants. Take care to avoid contamination of the edible parts of the plants.

For the control of slugs which attack **bananas**, use a bait containing 2.4 to 4.8 lb of metaldehyde per acre formulated in sufficient bran or similar carrier to make 30 lb of bait. Broadcast the bait evenly on the soil under the plants; a cyclone

seeder is an effective means for spreading the bait. A second application should be made 8 to 14 days after the first application to control newly hatched slugs.

Since slugs and snails are nocturnal in their habits, the metaldehyde bait should be spread late in the afternoon or at night. It is best to apply it when the ground is moist or wet as the pests are more active on the soil surface then. If possible, the bait should not be applied just before a rain which may wash it away or at least reduce its effectiveness. Good sanitation and the removal of loose boards, bricks, trash piles, or other material which might offer shelter to the pests will add to the effectiveness of the control measures.

Metaldehyde is relatively volatile and usually disappears in a few days from baits exposed in the field. This weathering is accelerated by rain or by hot, dry conditions. It also should be noted that slugs and snails may feed intermittently rather than every day. For these reasons it usually is necessary to distribute fresh bait at intervals to control the infestation. Metaldehyde does not affect mollusk eggs, so repetitive applications serve to control the newly hatched pests also.

Metaldehyde baits should not be stored or used in areas where they may be found and eaten by children or domestic animals.

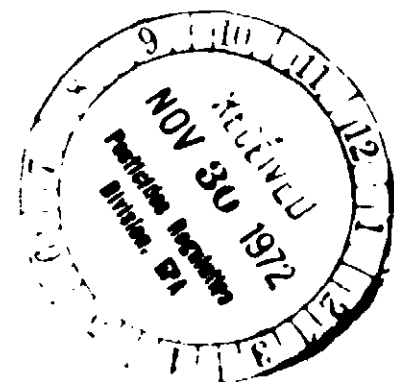
DUSTS

Uses of metaldehyde dusts on the soil around vegetable plants are registerable by the Environmental Protection Agency as **nonfood uses** of the pesticide. It is important that the dusts are applied only to the soil and do not contaminate the edible parts of the plants.

Suggested Use on Ornamentals

Metaldehyde baits are most effective against slugs and snails in rather arid sections, or where plants are watered artificially. In flower gardens, greenhouses, and other locations where there is an ample supply of succulent foliage, slugs and snails are less attracted by baits and may do a very considerable amount of damage. Under such conditions metaldehyde is particularly effective when used in the form of dusts or sprays.

ACCEPTED



The manufacturer assumes no responsibility when this product is not used in accordance with the instructions and information contained herein.

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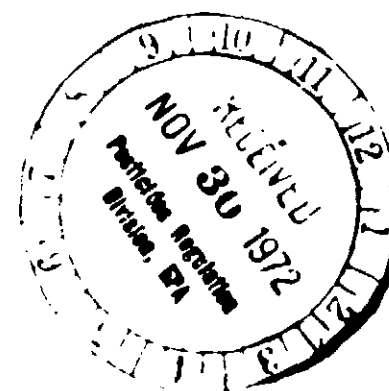
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ACCEPTED

271-12

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UNDER THE FEDERAL INSECTICIDE
FUNGICIDE AND RODENTICIDE ACT
FOR ECONOMIC POISON REGISTERED
ED UNDER NO. 271-12 SUBJECT
METHALDEHYDE



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