

Slugs are plant eating but can also survive whilst feeding on mould, fungal growth and algae which can grow on damp walls and in some under-floor areas.

Usually the first indication of slugs presence inside the home are sightings of the shiny trails made from the large quantities of mucous they produce allowing them to glide along on their toughened under-bodies.

They can enter homes through gaps in the mortar joints of ground level perimeter brickwork and around waste pipes. They can also enter through airbricks especially if the outside floor level has been raised by layers of additional concrete or flags which can then make it easier for the slugs to pass through into the cavity walls.

If you are being troubled with slugs it's advisable to:

- try and remove any vegetation or stacked materials away from outside the house
- seal all open cracks through brickwork as well as around pipes and drains
- make sure there are no dripping/leaking pipes under the sink or behind washers, which would allow for the damp conditions they require.

Slug pellets are readily available from garden centres and most hardware stores. A few pellets should be scattered around the outside perimeter of the house following the manufacturers guidelines.

If there are airbricks close to ground level it could be useful to introduce some pellets into the cavity walls through these airbricks. (You may have to fashion a funnel of some sort to allow the pellets to slip through into the cavity).

If the house has wooden floors, as opposed to solid floors, it could help by introducing some slug pellets underneath them via any small gaps or loose boards available.

Slug pellets are poisonous so care should be taken when applying them. If you have small children and pets it is not recommended to put pellets inside your home.

However, if you are constantly being troubled by slugs and their shiny lines in a particular area within the home one way of controlling these troublesome slugs would be to apply about ten pellets in that specific area, **where** the tell-tale shiny lines have been appearing, just before you go to bed at night. Make sure children and pets are excluded from these areas until you have removed the pellets first thing the next morning. Hopefully the slugs should be dead very close by to where you placed the pellets. This routine of placement and removal of pellets should be continued until you have achieved control.

Properties with solid floors could benefit by sealing any gaps between the floor and skirting boards etc. Remember, slug pellets quickly lose their effectiveness and need replacing regularly.

Handfuls of pellets thrown behind the washing machine and left for weeks will not be effective. Pellets are also very attractive to slugs and should not be scattered throughout the inside areas of the home as they could attract other slugs in. We are unable to provide a service for treating slugs as it is usually a structural, plumbing or gardening matter that needs rectifying.