

# DIAGUARD®

## Natural Insect Control



### What is DiaGuard®?

DiaGuard® is a high silica, food grade, freshwater Diatomaceous Earth. It is finely milled in order to maximize its efficacy, whilst maintaining its unique structures (See image on left) intact in order to maintain absorbency. It is an effective yet safe way of protecting poultry from many pests, including red mite, scab mite and lice. It is also effective in controlling lesser mealworm and other bugs.

## A NATURAL SOLUTION TO REDMITE AND OTHER POULTRY PESTS.

### How safe is DiaGuard®?

DiaGuard® is made from Diatomaceous Earth which is a naturally occurring inert mineral. Its mode of action is mechanical and not chemical.

In view of the particle size distribution of the product it is considered by the HSE to act by a physical mechanism and as such be outside the scope of COPR (Control of Pesticides Regulations).

The World Health Organization states that Diatomaceous Earth with a crystalline silica content of less than 3% is safe for ingestion by humans and animals alike. DiaGuard® contains less than 0.5% crystalline silica.

### Safety Precautions

DIAGUARD can create a dusty environment, therefore it is good to take some basic precautions such as:

- \* Avoiding direct contact with eyes and direct inhalation.
- \* Wearing suitable eye protection (to BS EN 166) and dust masks such as those conforming to EN 149 FFP2.
- \* In the event of getting DIAGUARD in one's eyes, wash thoroughly with water and, as a precaution, consult your doctor.



### How it works.

#### As an insect barrier:

DiaGuard® is a white, high silica (>90%) Diatomaceous Earth, making it extremely sharp at a microscopic level. This enables its minute particles to literally cut through insects' waxy outer layers, and due to the high porosity and hence absorbency of DiaGuard® it then absorbs the waxy fats and oils (lipids) of the insects, desiccating them.

Mites therefore die due to dehydration if they come into contact with DiaGuard®.

Due to the mechanical action of DiaGuard®, Red mites cannot build up an immunity or resistance to it, unlike many harmful chemical alternatives.

#### As an animal feed:

The silica content of DiaGuard® when digested by the layer hen, makes the eggshells much harder.

The mechanical mode of action also works on internal parasites; this also passes into the manure making it impossible for fly larvae to hatch.

## How to apply DiaGuard® to bedding and feed? How much to apply?

- ◆ Firstly make sure the chicken housing is clean and dry.
- ◆ Apply 500g of DiaGuard® for every square metre of floor in the house and spread evenly.
- ◆ A small heap of DiaGuard® can be applied at the end of each perch, Red mites tend to hide here. A small amount should also be applied along the perches.
- ◆ Apply a thin covering of DiaGuard® over the nest box floor.
- ◆ DiaGuard® can be suspended in water and applied using a pressure washer, though firstly you must remove the washer filters as DiaGuard® does not dissolve in water.
- ◆ Pour DiaGuard® in a shallow pan or scatter it around for them to eat freely.
- ◆ Put DiaGuard® in their favourite dusting spots and they will throw it all over themselves without you having to do any work at all.
- ◆ Mix into bulk feed for internal benefits. Add 500g of DiaGuard® to every 20 kg of chicken feed and mix well.
- ◆ Feeding the proper amount of DiaGuard® on a daily basis will afford the greatest benefit.

