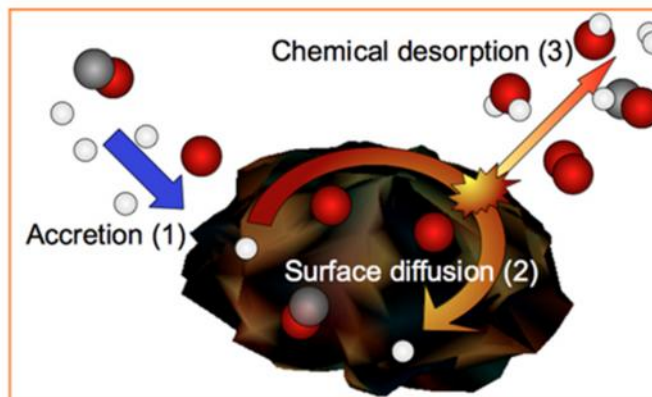




**Pest
Management
Academy**

All about emulsifiable concentrates



When are ECS the best choice for the job?

Emulsifiable concentrates (ECs) are just one of many different pesticide formulations available, and may be the one you use most often. Do you know when ECs are a good choice for the job, or when another formulation might be better?

An EC is a concentrated liquid active ingredient that has been dissolved in an oil-based solvent. The EC also contains an emulsifier to keep the oil mixture from separating when it's mixed with water.

Emulsifiable concentrates typically contain 25-27% of active ingredient per liter. When mixed with water, most ECs become milky but dry clear after application. In general, ECs become milky but dry clear after application. In general, ECs give a quick knockdown (except IGRs) and about a month of residual on surfaces not exposed to extremes of heat, wind, sunlight, or moisture. The letters EC (Sometimes E) are often part of the product name on the label, but not always.

ECs are a good choice:

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- When you want the product to soak into a porous surface like carpeting, or if you want the product to penetrate into wood to reach borers inside (ECs are absorbed into porous surfaces)
- When you are treating large areas and plan on using lots of product (ECs are the most cost effective choice since the concentrate is diluted and can be mixed and used for many applications)
- When ease of mixing is important (ECs mix easily)
- When equipment wear is a concern (ECs are not abrasive to nozzles and won't clog screens or strainers like wettable powders)
- When you don't want to have to frequently shake the mix (ECs don't settle out in the sprayer as quickly and require less agitation than wettable powders)
- When treating dark surfaces or if you don't want to risk leaving a visible residue on treated surfaces (ECs dry clear and leave less film on a surface than do wettable powders, microencapsulates, or dusts)

ECs might not be the best choice:

- When you are treating porous surfaces like brick, concrete, drywall, or bare wood (ECs are absorbed into porous materials, leaving little residual on the surface)
- When you are treating around junction boxes, outlets, or other electrical sites (the water-based mix conducts electricity)
- When concerned about deterioration of sprayer parts (solvents in some ECs can deteriorate rubber and plastic equipment; don't leave mix in a sprayer overnight)
- When you are treating a sensitive site where odour could be a problem (there is usually some odour from the solvents in the concentrate)
- When treating outdoor sites, especially on a windy day (pesticide drift and spray contact with skin is a concern during application)
- When you are treating a sunny, outdoor site (ECs break down fairly quickly in sunlight and heat, especially with high humidity)
- When you are treating around ornamental plants (the solvents in ECs can damage some plants; check the label for a listing of plants affected)
- When treating on or near certain high-risk surfaces (the solvents in some ECS can, on occasion, damage rubber or plastic surfaces, some metals, car finishes, painted surfaces, and absorbent dyed surfaces like carpet or wallpaper; test a small hidden area first)

Safety concerns when using ECs

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**AGRISETA & SAQA
 REGISTRATION NO: AFRI/c
 prov/0207/08
 FET REGISTRATION NO: 2012/
 FE07/001**

**Battling to complete
 your pest control
 qualification?**

Emulsifiable concentrates are more hazardous to the user during mixing and application because (1) the active ingredient is concentrated, (2) they are liquids, and are more easily spilled or splashed, and (3) skin and eye absorption is faster than with wettable powders or dry formulations. Wear eye protection, gloves, and clothing protection when mixing and when spraying outdoors. ECs are flammable; don't use or store near open flames or hot surfaces. Read the label!

If so, contact us!

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newsletter [here](#)**

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