

**THE IMPORTANCE OF
USING EPA APPROVED
FLEA AND TICK PRODUCTS**



DISCOUNTFLEA.com
AFFORDABLE CONVENIENCE

AFFORDABLE CONVENIENCE

The Importance of Using EPA Approved Flea and Tick Products

Controlling fleas and ticks is one of the many health and wellness issues pet owners face. Your pets have very limited control over the arrival of these nasty pests, and they trust you to help them remove the source of their itching, scratching, and irritation. Applying flea and tick products as needed to kill off the bugs is the least you can do for them.

Imagine the horror, then, when you find that the product you applied to your pet as a responsible owner, causes them illness or death. One minute your beloved pets are looking to you to help them out, and the next minute you are frantically trying to find a vet to revive them. Adverse reactions to flea and tick treatments can bring about this awful situation.

As different formulas have evolved, the incidence of adverse reactions seems to be on the rise. The Wall Street Journal reported on an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study indicating that reported reactions had gone up 53% between 2008 and 2009. This makes it likely that failing to research the products you use on your pet will lead to harmful and unfortunate outcomes.

Thus, it is important to read all labels and really investigate the products you use to kill fleas and ticks. Unfortunately, researching products can be time consuming, especially if you are a multi-pet household. To make the process easier, this report will detail the EPA approved products currently on the market for dogs and cats. After reading this report, you will understand:

- Which products are EPA approved;
- The basic features of each approved product line; and
- Your options as a pet owner for safe flea and tick treatment.

All of the information in this report has been referenced against the EPA's most recent (May 2009) publication of registered and regulated flea and tick products, consumer reports, and the

manufacturer's products. The goal is to provide you with a solid listing of products that you can use with your pets without having to lay awake worrying about how they will react to the medication.

Buyer Beware

When purchasing flea and tick products, you have two options:

1. Purchase from your veterinarian
2. Purchase from an online pharmacy or pet store

Purchasing from your veterinarian ensures that you will be receiving a product that is EPA certified and safe for your pet, otherwise the veterinarian wouldn't endorse the product and sell it in his or her office. However, this can be the most expensive option as well, which is why many people have chosen to purchase flea and tick products via online pet pharmacies.

If you're looking to save money, the online pet pharmacy is an excellent option, but buyer beware. Many pet owners order what they believe is the US version of Frontline Plus, but later find out that they are receiving a product from another country and is not US EPA approved. You may believe that the same name means the same formulation, but this is not necessarily the case. Different countries have different regulations and companies will alter their formulations based on those regulations. If you choose to purchase through the online pet pharmacy or pet store, be certain that you are going to be receiving only US EPA approved products.

Sellers of US EPA Approved Products

The following companies display on their website that they carry only US EPA approved products. DiscountFlea.com is my online store and carries the same Flea and Tick medications that I carry in my veterinary offices.

- DiscountFlea.com – <http://DiscountFlea.com> (Get 10% OFF First Order!)

- 1-800-Pet-Meds – <http://1800PetMeds.com>

Flea and Tick Treatments

For your convenience, the listing here has been organized alphabetically by manufacturer rather than by product application method, although application methods and brand names have been noted. In most cases, the same formulation is used in all application forms and brand families, and thus each product batch carries the same EPA tracking number. Differences have been noted.

Bayer Healthcare LLC

Although most people hearing Bayer may think of “aspirin” immediately, the German based company also has a successful pet care line for dogs, cats, and horses. The company has been in business for more than 140 years.

Brands associated with the Bayer Animal Science division include Advantage and K9 Advantix. Products are applied topically, and are available for multiple ages and sizes of pets. They are one of the number one sellers on the market.

Unlike many other companies that have one master formula, Bayer uses several, all with different EPA numbers. The EPA numbers associated with Bayer products are (11556-116 through 122), (11556-125), (11556-127), (11556-128), (11556-130) (11556-132 through 135), and (11556-141 through 144) for further research if you desire.

Enforcer Products

Enforcer Products was founded in 1977 and is based out of Emerson, Georgia. The company offers flea and tick treatments for cats and dogs, with an emphasis on dog products.

Brands associated with Enforcer are the Zodiac, Zodiac Veterinarian Quality, Zodiac Fleatrol, and Zodiac Groomers products. The products are available as shampoos, topical spot on and squeeze on treatments, and sprays. The line is notable for having treatments for dogs over 60 pounds.

The EPA number associated with Enforcer Products is (40849-72) for further research if desired.

Farnam

Farnam is an American company based out of Arizona with strong veterinary roots. They have been operating as a pet products manufacturer for nearly 60 years. Their number one specialty is horse treatments, with cats, dogs, and ferrets represented as a secondary line. However, it is a fast-growing treatment line that many veterinarians in the US and Canada will be familiar with to recommend to you as an option.

Brand names from this manufacturer include Farnam, Scratchex, Adams, Bio Spot, Francodex, Sergeants, Bansect, Breakthru, Demize, Terminix, Equi Spot, Kiltix, and Breakthru products. Typically, the product is a topical treatment, available as stripe on or spot on formulations. Products serve animals of all sizes, including small animals. Flea & tick lines are offered for horses and dogs, while cats and ferrets are offered flea only treatments.

One note to consider with Farnam is their partnership with the Sergeant's Pet Care Products, Inc Sergeant Flea Control for Cat's line. Although nothing has been done to remove it from the list and there is no official position on the matter, some of its spot-on treatments have been reported in consumer boards for adverse reactions in small pets under six pounds. EPA numbers are available for flea & tick (270-278 & 270-279) as well as just flea (270-308) for follow up research if you desire.

The Hartz Mountain Corporation (a subsidiary of Sumitomo Chemical)

The Hartz Mountain Corporation started in 1932 as a birdseed company before expanding into pet care services. It was sold to Sumitomo Chemical in 2004, but had been making flea and tick

treatments for dogs and cats for some time. The company markets to owners of large and small pets.

Brands associated with Hartz are Defy 1-2-3, Hartz, RF-9804 Topical, Enforcer, and Vet Kem Ovitrol. Products target both fleas and ticks. They are applied topically as drops, spot on, and squeeze on products applied on a monthly or biweekly basis.

Hartz products **as a whole** have the approval of the EPA. However, specific lines of products have been discontinued at the request of the EPA. These include the Hartz Flea and Tick Drops for Cats and Kittens. Stocks of these products were to be removed from shelves and retail locations as of March 31st, 2006.

The Flea and Tick Drops for Cats and Kittens was associated with EPA numbers (2598-148-discontinued) and (2596-151). Products with the formula code of (2596-151) are still in use for dogs after the settlement with the EPA. A large part of the issue seemed to stem from sensitivity of animals with smaller body masses to the formula, which is why it was banned from cats and kittens. While there is no official position, anecdotal evidence suggests that dog owners of small breeds should monitor their Hartz use closely and especially if the dog has sensitive skin as adverse reactions are possible.

The EPA numbers for the Hartz Mountain Corporation family are (2596-147), (2596-150), and (2596-151) for further research if you desire.

Marketquest, Inc

Marketquest, Inc is a Virginia based company. Marketing flea and tick products to cats and dogs, the company shares formulations with many Sargeant Products, specifically the Zema line of pet care products.

Brands associated with Marketquest include Marketquest One-Drop, No More Ticks, and Cutter. Products are sold as drops or spot on treatments.

The EPA number associated with Marketquest products are (73510-5), (73510-8) and (73510-9) for further research as you desire.

Merial Limited

Merial Limited is a partnership group between Merck & Co. and Sanofi-Aventis. It was founded in 1997 and focuses on animal health products. Its flea and tick treatment is a top seller in the marketplace.

The brand name for Merial in the flea and tick market is Frontline. It is a topical product, applied monthly, and suitable for cats or dogs. It is found as Frontline Top Spot and Frontline Plus.

Each Frontline offering has a different EPA number. The four EPA numbers associated with Frontline for future research are (65331-2) and (65331-3) for Top Spot and (65331-4) and (65331-5) for Frontline Plus.

Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation

Schering-Plough Corporation got its start in Germany in 1851 as Schering AG, and developed US partnerships in the 1950's and 1970's with Plough and Merck. Their focus is on dog tick and flea treatments as well as vaccines for worms and rabies. You may be more familiar with them for their Dr/ Scholl's, Claritin, and Vytorin products for people, but they are industry leaders in animal health as well.

Brand names from this manufacturer include Exspot, Defend, Proticall, Flea Arrest, and Freedom. Products are applied topically or worn as collars. Dogs of all sizes can be treated.

Do note that the Scalibor, Tick Arrest, and Tick Detach brands are not on the official list. The EPA number for the Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation Products is (773-73) for follow up research if you desire.

Sergeant's Pet Care Products, Inc

Sergeant's Pet Care Products, Inc was founded in 1868. The company actually grew out of the efforts of American folk musician Polk Miller, who was looking for cures for his own dog, Sergeant (hence the name). The company markets to dogs and cats, with special formulas for kittens and puppies.

Brand names from this manufacturer include Sergeant's Gold, SentryPro, Sentry XFC, Triforce, Marketquest, and Zema. Products target both fleas and ticks. Products are usually applied topically as sprays, squeeze on, spot on, or drop applications.

Sergeant's spot on products have received considerable press for causing irritation on animals with sensitive skin. The EPA has not removed the products from their list, but several have been re-released with new formulations designed to be more compatible with sensitive skin types. Sentry Pro XFC and Sergeant's Gold Squeeze-On for Dogs are two that were re-released in a statement with the EPA.

The EPA numbers associated with Sergeant's squeeze on and spot on products are (2517-80), (2517-85), (2517-87), (2517-88), (2517-90), and (2517-94) for further research if you desire.

Virbac AH, Inc.

Virbac is a French company founded in 1968. The company operates in more than 100 companies serving cats, dogs, and horses. In the United States, their EPA approved product is for cats.

Brand names marketed domestically for this product are Pyriproxifen. It is a spot on treatment. The EPA number for the Virbac registered product is (2382-173) for follow up research if you desire.

Wellmark International

Wellmark International is a US based company formerly known as Zoecon. The company focuses on using growth inhibitors to target pest populations. They market to cats and dogs, and they partner with Hartz on some formulations.

Brand names from Wellmark include the Zodiac, Adams, Bio Spot, Hartz Incontrol, and Enforcer products. Most products are applied topically as spot on treatments or drops. They do have products for puppies, kittens, and “toy” breeds.

The EPA numbers associated with the Wellmark line of products are (2724-448), (2724-497), and (2724-504) for further research if you desire.

Conclusion

As you can see, you have a number of options for EPA approved flea and tick solutions, no matter what kind of pet you have. You don't need to put your pet through a miserable and life threatening experience with unapproved treatments, although for low-weight and newly born pets you may want to take extra precautions even with approved products. Whether you prefer a spot treatment, collar, or spray, you can safely get rid of those nasty bugs and have a happy pet again.

