

How to Naturally Get Rid of Ants in your House

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A homemade natural insecticidal spray for hand-to-hand combat, a homemade ant trap to catch them all (see photo below), and various "lines ants won't cross" to keep them out or contained are all found here!



Homemade Natural Method to Kill Ants in the House

I'm a big fan of [natural remedies](#) and am even learning to [make my own herbal treatments](#) for the medicine cabinet.

I'm not going to put out poison in my kitchen (unless the ants and earwigs take over completely). My mom copied this recipe down out of something she was reading once at my house, and I am sure glad I was able to find it last week when the ants first came marching in. Imagine my glee when not only ants but earwigs, too, my most hated nemesis that hide in every washcloth and towel in our house, **died within 60 seconds of being squirted**.

Added bonus: **this home remedy is so simple to mix up, my husband could do it:**

1 tsp. dishwashing soap (not detergent)
1 tsp. cooking oil (we used virgin olive)
1 qt. water

Mix in a spray bottle. Spray on any soft-bodied insect that invades your house or garden: ants, earwigs, aphids, whiteflies, mealy bugs, etc.

Also spray a barricade line where ants might be entering your house. The only drawback is that it doesn't work once it's dried, so if you really want prevention, you have to spray often throughout the day or use other strategies below. This is a good first wave of terror on the bug world, though.

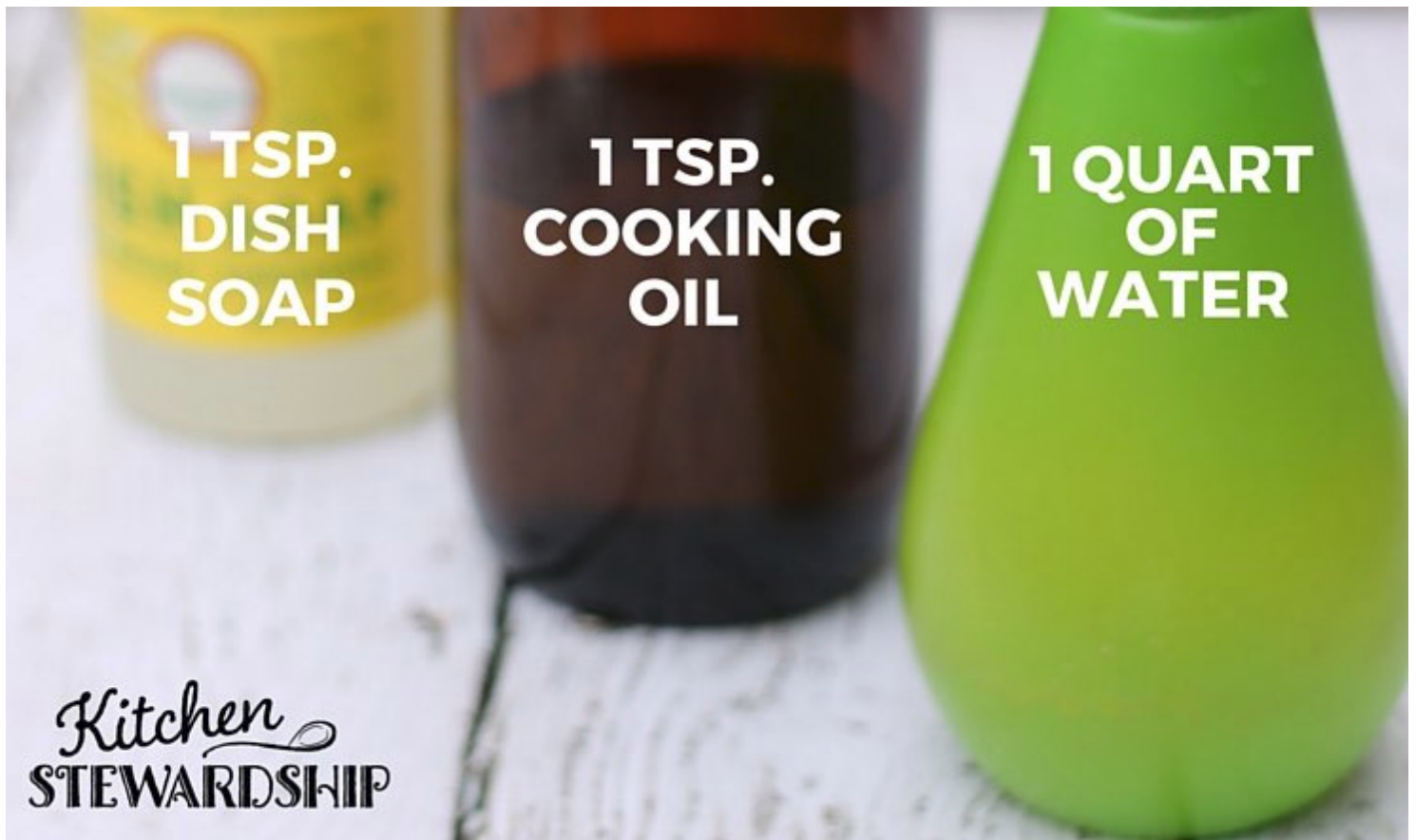
Other Natural Home Pest Control Methods

A few years ago I was visiting a friend and we decided to wage war on the ants in her house, naturally. A quick Google search netted us **many home remedy options for natural pest control for the ants:**

- Make a line ants can't cross with:
 - cinnamon
 - chili powder
 - cayenne pepper
 - chalk (reader in the comments says this doesn't work)
 - cornmeal
 - baby powder
 - black pepper
- Squirt the ants with undiluted vinegar.
- UPDATE 2013: A reader tells me lavender and mint sachets in closets, drawers, pantry, etc. repel ants (add bay leaves to take care of moths and other insects). I think that's so cool! (and simple!)
- UPDATE 2016: My friend Heather has such a great post with [SEVEN natural ways to kill ants in the house!](#)

For me, the **homemade insecticidal soap is the most effective thing I've ever seen to kill ants on contact.**





Getting Rid of Ants Long-Term: Natural Ant Poison

If an initial on-contact kill with the spray doesn't get rid of all your ants, you need to give them something poisonous to take home to their friends.

Make a **homemade natural ant poison trap** that will kill the ants but not be toxic to your family. (You still don't want your kids to eat it on purpose, but it's not like toxic chemicals.)

- Cut an index card in half.
- Mix about a 1:1 ratio of corn syrup (or any sticky sweetener) and [borax](#) (one major reason I won't use a [homemade dishwasher detergent](#) made of borax).
- I just use a spoon or my finger and do it right on the card; then I don't have any ant poison dishes to wash.
- Put the index card where you know they'll find it, even on carpet (see above).

[Check out my non-toxic ant poison video](#) to see how *SIMPLE* it is to make this stuff – it takes 45 seconds!

You can also add a layer of protection with a line of cinnamon, like this:



This line of cinnamon held them back for about 12 hours...and then they somehow made a hallway through it. I kid you not. Crafty little buggers, these sugar ants.

I started with the vinegar spray, but it just wasn't enough. If you have ants on the carpet, **I highly recommend the vacuum technique.** Vacuum them up, plus some cinnamon to drive them nuts. Then be SURE to remove the vacuum to a garage or outside on a porch in case of rain, or they'll come trekking right back out.

After getting rid of most of the ants with the vacuum, I contained the rest with the cinnamon. It vacuums up just fine without leaving a mark after a few days IF you are very careful not to get any of your spraying on it as well. That's real trouble. Don't do it.



The combo of the cinnamon line and the homemade natural ant poison **gets rid of all the ants in about three days.** You have to really exercise your self control and DON'T kill the ants as they're feasting. You need them to take the poison back to their nest and die properly.

Note: the sweetener will dry out in a day or two, so when the ants stop feasting, replenish with new sweet poison to make sure they are really gone.