

## Lice and Mites

It is important to note that as we have moved back to birds in open range the contact of small scale poultry with wild birds has increased and so the possibility of parasite movement increased. If simple control measures do not work, and the birds are infested so frequent treatment is needed, then you should consider whether there is another underlying health problem in the flock, or a high level of transmission from wild birds.

### Natural solutions

[Pestene](#) powder is produced from Derris dust (made from Rotenone roots and sulphur). Regarded as a natural pesticide, it is effective against lice and mites on the birds, but is not good against red mite which live off the bird. Pestene comes in an easy to use sprinkle 500g gram can.

### [Molodri Absorbacide](#)

[Absorbacide®](#) (or diatomaceous earth (DE)) is made up of micro fine, microscopic freshwater diatoms, with the unique capacity to damage red mite and similar exoskeleton nasties. Effective in dry locations where the red mite will come into physical contact with it, i.e. sprinkle on the perches, nest boxes, cracks and crevices where the red mite hide.

The diatoms scratch and cause abrasion to the exoskeleton of the red mite, causing body fluid to be exposed to the unique absorbing action of the Absorbacide®. This cause the red mite to dehydrate and die. It works this way with all sub millimetre exoskeleton parasites, and with the juvenile stages of some larger parasites.

Normal use a dessert spoon of Absorbacide® in each nest, and in dust bathing areas, along perches, and in cracks and crevices. Use a dust mask and gloves and avoid inhalation of the Absorbacide.

### Chemical solutions

[Avian Insect Liquidator \(AIL\)](#) is for use on show poultry only (**not** for food producing birds i.e. layers, broilers. Finely spray birds and environment such as nests and perches, to control a wide range of insects found on birds. This is insect spray has some residual activity. It has a unique two way approach to parasitic control as it kills lice (Permethrin) and inhibits insect egg hatching and juveniles maturing (Methoprene).

[Avitrol Lice and Mite spray](#) is for use on show poultry only (**not** for food producing or small birds i.e. canaries or finches. It has little residual activity.