SLUGS

How to control them

If slugs or snails are causing a problem in a garden or outside area, you should contact your nearest gardening centre for advice.

Although they are very unappealing pests, they are completely harmless to humans.

Are they a problem?

Although slugs and snails do not carry disease, they may cause distress if seen in the home. They occur naturally throughout Britain and are mostly found outdoors. They do however occasionally make their way inside and can be found in damp rooms, e.g. cellars or kitchen areas. This normally occurs after being brought in on vegetables which may contain uncooked slugs or snails.

Where can you find them?

They are commonly found in gardens and greenhouses. Slugs are often found in damp, shaded places, while snails are more commonly found in sunny areas.

The Council provides information leaflets on the following range of pests:

- Ants
- Bedbugs
- Cockroaches
- Flies
- Fleas
- Rats
- Pigeons
- Spiders
- Wasps

Pest Control Advice

Northern Ireland Pest Advisory Group
Control

If slugs or snails are regularly being seen in the home, some relief may be gained by clearing outside vegetation and debris from the areas closest to indoor access points. FAULTY DAMP PROOFING MAY ALSO BE ENCOURAGING SLUGS TO SHELTER INDOORS. EASY ENTRANCE INTO THE HOUSEHOLD MAY BE VIA GAPS UNDER DOORS. If appropriate, slug pellets may also be applied in the immediate area to discourage entry. It may also be advisable to check any purchased vegetables for the presence of pests prior to storage within the home.

Pesticides

When purchasing a pesticide, ensure that it will treat slugs or snails.

There are a number of different products available for the control of these pests. However, due to their insignificance in terms of 'risk to health', it is recommended that pesticide treatments are used only as a 'last resort' measure.

Safety

- Always take great care when using pesticides.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not place pesticide where children or pets can come into contact with it.
- Always wash hands after handling pesticides.

Seek professional advice from the Council’s Environmental Health Service if you require any assistance.

Warning: Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.