

Cat Flea & Tick Active Ingredients

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

There are more flea and tick products available today than ever before. Provided below is a brief description of the various categories of active ingredients found in today's flea and tick preventives.

Insecticides

Etofenprox: ([Bio Spot® ACTIVE CARE SPOT ON® for Cats](#))

A pyrethroid, which is a longer-lasting, synthetic relative of natural pyrethrins. Kills and repels ticks, fleas, lice, and mosquitoes. Etofenprox is labeled safe to use on cats.

Fipronil: ([Drs. Foster & Smith Fiprotrol™ Plus](#), [Frontline Plus](#))

Blocks the passage of chlorine through cells in the insect's nervous system, causing paralysis of the insect. Collects in the oil glands of the skin, then is slowly released. Water-resistant. Protects against ticks and adult fleas.

Imidacloprid: ([Advantage II for Cats](#))

Interferes with the nerve conduction system of insects by blocking the insects' nerve receptors. It kills fleas but does not have activity against ticks.

Linalool:

A plant-derived extract used in environmental flea and tick control. Affects the insect's nervous system.

Pyrethrins: (Flea and Tick Shampoo)

A natural plant extract from the chrysanthemum flower. Provides quick flea and tick killing action with a wide margin of safety.

Sodium Lauryl Sulfate:

Detergent-like nontoxic flea and tick control.

Insect Growth Regulators

Methoprene, Nylar: ([Drs. Foster & Smith Fiprotrol™ Plus](#), [Bio Spot® ACTIVE CARE SPOT ON® for Cats](#), or [Frontline Plus](#))

Mimics the natural juvenile hormone in insects that prevents the pupa from molting into an adult, thus breaking the biological cycle. Used in flea control products.