

# Buyers Guide to Automatic Insect Control

What to look for when purchasing an Automatic Insect Control Dispenser

## Natural Pyrethrins vs Synthetic Pyrethrins

Natural Pyrethrins are derived from the Chrysanthemum Daisy and have been used as an insecticide for hundreds of years. Natural Pyrethrins are unique in that they will dissolve in sunlight which means there is never a dangerous build-up of the insecticide. Also, natural Pyrethrins are great for use around kids and pets (but not suitable around aquariums). Some products on the market use synthetic Pyrethrins which are a man-made insecticide and have very different insecticidal properties to Natural Pyrethrins.

## Solenoid Valve

Solenoid valves create an ultra fine mist of product to ensure the very fine droplets can be carried on natural air currents. Other simpler dispensers can produce larger, heavier droplets of spray which fall to the ground quicker and cover less area making the unit far less effective.

## Approvals

Look for brands and products which have been tested and passed by regulatory agencies. These show that the formulations have been tested

These include:

- New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA)
- AgriQuality
- Australian Pest and Veterinary Medicine Association (APVMA) – NZ does not have an equivalent Association

## Design

Remember that these dispensers are going on the wall in your home. Try and choose a slim line unit which will not be an eyesore in your home.

## High/Low Operation

It can be handy you can turn your unit onto a higher setting to increase the frequency of product dispersed when needed to ensure the bugs are kept at bay during the summer. Also, a low setting will keep insects away during the winter months while conserving your can life.

## Day Night Sensor

Look for units which will have a day night (light) sensor. Generally this means the dispenser will fire less often at night (when you do not need as much insect control) which makes you can last longer.

## Manufacturer's Warranty

Ensure that the dispenser you are looking at has a manufacturer's warranty to cover potential faults. Note, Pyrethrin is a thin sticky substance (like a runny honey) and can over time block the very small output nozzle in any dispenser. This will cause the droplet size to increase and will affect the efficacy of the unit and can cause dribble marks on your dispenser. To ensure that your dispenser is working properly, make sure that you can get your dispenser serviced by your local agent or manufacturer.