

The use of snail baits in environmentally sensitive areas and public amenity areas such as conservation areas, sporting grounds, road sides and next to waterways requires care and the correct choice of product. The majority of Snail and Slug baits available commercially in Australia have one of three active ingredients. The table below gives a summary of the major relevant properties of baits based on these active ingredients.

Active ingredient	Withholding period	MRL	Use near waterways	Compatible with IPM	Colour	Toxic to slaters	Toxic to non target species	LD50 of active rat (oral)
Metaldehyde	Yes	Yes	No	??	Green	No	Yes, birds and mammals	0.6g/kg
Methiocarb	Yes	Yes	No	No	Blue	Yes	Yes, birds mammals insects	0.03g/kg
Iron EDTA	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yellow	Yes	No, except yabbies and other crustacean	>5g/kg

From this table it is clear that pellets with iron EDTA complex baits are by far the preferred bait for use in environmentally sensitive areas. The Iron EDTA complex products **ERADICATE** Snail and Slug Killer (Yellow) and **ERADICATE** Snail and Slug Bait (Red) have identical pellet size and formulation apart from the colour. Iron EDTA is an allowable food additive and is widely used as such. Iron EDTA is widely used to treat iron deficiency in humans and Kelloggs have a patent to include it in cereals preparations. It is also used in cosmetics and in cleaning products. About 3% of world production is used in treating iron deficiencies in crops and pasture. Currently about 1% is used in snail and slug baits. The amount per hectare used to treat iron deficiency is much greater than that would be supplied by treatment with **ERADICATE**. **ERADICATE** should not be directly applied to waterways to kill aquatic snails because it is toxic to crustacea. However, the run-off from land immediately adjacent to waterways treated with **ERADICATE** as per the label instructions does not pose a threat to aquatic organisms. The iron content of run-off water will be far below the toxic level.

**ERADICATE** poses no threat to non target organisms or natural predators of snails and slugs such as carabid beetles when used as directed. **ERADICATE** contains a pH modifier and taste deterrent (as required for all molluscicides by the APVMA). The taste deterrent makes consumption of more than a few grams by children extremely unlikely. The pH modifier may cause animals that gulp their food, such as dogs, to vomit and possibly have diarrhea but this will only occur if the label instructions re storage are totally ignored. The Australian regulatory authority does not impose withholding periods on **ERADICATE** when used on food crops, and there are no restrictions on use near waterways. Also note that use is compatible with integrated pest management. The lack of restrictions imposed on the use of **ERADICATE** mean it is consistent with both the GRAS (Generally Regarded As Safe) classification of iron EDTA by the USA FDA and the determination of the European Food Safety Authority.



Theba pisana



Cochlicella barbara



Deroceras reticulatum