



# Oxuvar FAQs

## a) Spray Application

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### **Can I apply Oxuvar in the active bee keeping season?**

Oxuvar 5.7% oxalic acid solution is a versatile varroa treatment that can be used in different ways throughout the year. Providing the temperature outside the hive is averaging above 8°C, Oxuvar can be applied as a spray at any time of the year.

To use in the spray form simply dilute the oxalic acid solution with 250ml of water for the 275g bottle, replace the cap and shake well. Then decant into your spray bottle and proceed to spray about 2-4ml on each side of bee covered frames. This prepared solution will be enough to treat between 5-10 colonies. It's best to apply Oxuvar spray onto a broodless colony to ensure that no varroa mites are in the sealed brood of the hive. This also makes Oxuvar spray perfect for treating collected swarms, artificial swarms, and splits that you make from larger colonies.

### **How does Oxuvar work on the varroa mite?**

Oxuvar spray works to combat varroa in an interesting and innovative way. The solution is sprayed directly onto the bees and then the water in the solution evaporates leaving the oxalic acid on the body of the honeybee. Oxuvar now on the honeybee will encounter the varroa mites and kill them.

### **When is the best time of the day to apply the Oxuvar spray?**

Oxuvar spray is best applied to the colony when most of the bees are in the hive so this would be the first thing in the morning when the bees have not yet left to forage, or in the evening when all the bees have come back from foraging. This is to ensure that as many bees in the colony are sprayed with the solution and Oxuvar encounters the most varroa mites. The best temperature to apply Oxuvar as a spray is when outdoor temperatures are above 8°C.

### **Can I use Oxuvar on any hive?**

Oxuvar can be applied to any hive type in either the spray application or the trickle application via a syringe or the Andermatt automatic syringe. The versatile solution can be used on any size of hive. Because Oxuvar is made of oxalic acid, a natural compound the treatment only affects the varroa mite not the honeybees.

### **Why can't I just use Oxalic acid that I buy off the internet?**

Oxuvar (and all bee health products from Andermatt Home and Garden) are registered with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (the VMD) which means Oxuvar is a product that is legal to apply to your honeybees in the UK. If you apply unregistered Oxalic Acid to your hives and a residue of this is found in your hive or your honey, you can be in trouble for this. Oxuvar has been manufactured

and calculated to the correct dosage to your hives. The treatment comes in a convenient bottle for application so makes treating simple. Just add either water or sugar and mix and it is ready to apply.

### **Is Oxuvar more effective as a spray or trickled into the hive?**

Oxuvar has an efficacy of 95% on the bee mite varroa population in the hive. Applying it as a spray or trickle it onto the brood will not change the efficacy of the treatment. It's always best to check the level of varroa infestation regularly in your hive and apply bee health treatments accordingly. This will dictate how and when you should treat your colonies.

## **b) Trickle Application**

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### **Is the best time to apply Oxuvar in the winter when the bees are clustered?**

Oxuvar from Andermatt is a versatile product that can be used in the active bee keeping season and in the winter season when the bees are not as active. The best temperature range to apply Oxuvar in the trickle formation is between +5 and -15°C.

In the winter, Oxuvar can be warmed gently in a bowl of water and sugar added with simple a ratio of 1:1, so for example for the 275g bottle of Oxuvar you need to add 275g of sugar. The bottle is then closed and shaken to dissolve the sugar into the solution and the treatment can be applied to the colony.

### **Can I apply Oxuvar directly from the bottle it comes in?**

Yes, the solution can be applied directly from the bottle. Once the sugar is mixed into the solution, this can be done by using the automatic syringe from Andermatt which connects directly onto the bottle. The automatic syringe conveniently measures each dosage amount for you so once you set the amount (about 5-6ml per occupied row) you can apply the 50ml of Oxuvar per hive accurately every time. You can also apply Oxuvar to your colony via a hand syringe with a gauge so you can measure out each dose as you apply it.

### **When in winter should I apply Oxuvar to my colony?**

It's best to apply Oxuvar in the trickle form when the colony is broodless. This occurs in the UK on or around the winter solstice, but this will vary depending on where your colony is in the UK. The queen will naturally stop laying for a period during the winter but will begin to lay the first batch of eggs for the new seasons bees when the colony decides.

Being able to identify the brood less period will give Oxuvar a high level of effectiveness on the varroa mites. The size of population of the varroa mite in the colony during the broodless period will dictate how big the population gets in the following season. It's important to use this opportunity to control the bee mite population before it gets too big to manage.

### **How does Oxuvar work on the varroa mite?**

When trickled onto the bees in the winter, Oxuvar is passed throughout the colony by the bees and the sugar ensures that the bees pass it to every member of the colony. Oxuvar then sticks to the bees and encounters the phoretic mites in the hive, killing them. Therefore, it's best to treat your colonies when they are brood less because the mite population will be solely on the bees and not existing within any sealed brood.