

# Weed dabber bottle

Instructions for use for cut and paint weed control method using dabber bottle.

## Safety

During filling and use of your dabber bottle, ensure proper safety procedures are followed.

Read the safety requirements of use in the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for the substance you are using.

Wear rubber gloves, appropriate clothing to stop chemical splashing onto your skin, and eye protection and use in a well-ventilated area.

Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area in a sealed container when not in use. Wash hands well after use.

If a spillage occurs, if possible, contain the spill by placing an absorbent material (such as paper kitty litter, saw dust). Collect soiled material and place in sealed plastic bag and dispose of in your general waste kerbside bin.

## What weeds can I use a dabber bottle on?

Most woody weeds can be effectively controlled by using a dabber bottle in the cut and paint method. Anything that is firm enough for you to apply the herbicide to should be appropriate. These weeds include, but are not limited to:

- Sweet Pittosporum
- Cotoneaster
- Hawthorn
- Holly
- Willow
- Blackberry
- Weedy Wattles
- Ivy
- Boneseed
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Wild Tobacco Tree
- Broom Cestrum
- Sycamore Maple
- Karamu

## Set up

1. Fill the bottle with an appropriate registered herbicide, as per the label instructions.
2. Add a drop or two of herbicide dye if you have it available. This will make it easy for you to see where the herbicide has been applied (and others will be able to see it as well).
3. Push the sponge stopper all the way into the top of the bottle. Make sure it is inserted properly to avoid any leakage.
4. Pop on the lid and clearly label the bottle with POISON and the name of the chemical you have used.

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## How to use

Use herbicide when the weather is clear and no rain is predicted for the next 24-48 hours. You want to make sure that the chemical stays where it has been applied. This also reduced run off into other parts of your garden.

Ensure the weed you are applying herbicide to is in an active growing state and is healthy - distressed plants won't absorb the herbicide as readily as a healthy plant.



Figure 1. Dabber bottle



Figure 2. Stem cut



Figure 3. Dabber bottle in use

Your dabber bottle comes in three parts (Figure 1):

1. the bottle
2. the sponge - ensure that the sponge is relatively clean and free of dirt. You can get replacement sponges from the Council. The sponge has a small pin in the centre, as you dab the sponge on the weed, the pin depresses and releases the herbicide which soaks the sponge.
3. the lid.

Cut the stem of the plant just above ground level (careful not to touch the soil) with secateurs or pruning saw (Figure 2). Alternatively, scrape the stem (good for weeds with cane type stems such as Blackberry).

Dab the cut immediately (within 5-10 seconds) so the weed will absorb the herbicide down into the root system (Figure 3). For larger tree stumps, concentrate around the outside (sapwood area) just inside the bark, not the heartwood.

## Weed disposal

Dispose of the weeds by placing in your green kerbside bin (do not use plastic bags) or use Council's green waste drop off events or take to a waste transfer station. Avoid leaving cuttings on the ground as they may reshoot or spread.

For more information on identifying weeds and removal techniques visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/weeds](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/weeds)  
Thank you to Yarra Ranges Shire for assistance in compiling this information.

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