Fipronil can be used in and around structures to control insects such as termites, ants, or cockroaches, on pets for fleas, and against some burrowing insects and ants on golf course turf. Other examples of insects that fipronil controls are mole crickets and ticks. It can be found in many forms, including baits, liquids, granules, and dusts.

**Potential hazards of fipronil:**
- Highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates.
- Toxic to bees and should not be applied when bees are foraging.
- Highly toxic to many game birds.
- Moderately toxic to small mammals including pets if they eat it.
- Classified as a possible carcinogen by the U.S. EPA.

**Water quality issues:**
Fipronil dissolves in water and has high potential for runoff into surface water. It breaks down into three chemicals that are as toxic or more toxic to aquatic organisms than fipronil itself.

**Tips for keeping fipronil out of water:**
- For ant control, use fipronil in bait stations rather than spreading granules over surfaces.
- Avoid applying granules especially to hard surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks.
- Sweep up granules that fall onto hard surfaces.
- Avoid perimeter sprays on hard surfaces surrounding buildings, especially where water from irrigation or rain can wash the insecticide away.
- Around structures, use pin stream instead of wide fan nozzles for liquid sprays and spot treatments.
- Do not apply within 15 feet of a body of water or near places where water drains into the street, gutters, or storm drains.
- Avoid runoff by not overwatering.
- Apply only when needed.
- Replace broken or cracked bait stations.

**Options to consider when pesticides are recommended:**
- Always select the least toxic product that can solve the problem and consider nonchemical alternatives. Always use pesticides in an integrated pest management program that includes a combination of methods.
- See the UC IPM Web site, www.ipm.ucdavis.edu, for nonchemical or safer chemical control alternatives.

**More about fipronil:**
- Fipronil is a broad-spectrum insecticide that works by disrupting an insect's normal nerve functions.

For more pesticide and pest management information, visit the University of California IPM Web site at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu or the California Department of Pesticide Regulation Web site at www.cdpr.ca.gov.

The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.