

Technical Bulletin – Termidor, termites and flooding

Questions & Answers

Many events, such as torrential rains, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc, can lead to excessive flooding of structures. We at BASF would like to express our feelings of care and concern towards those individuals who are adversely affected. It is certainly a trying time for all. As a consequence of these events, questions regarding the efficacy of past Termidor treatments may arise. This bulletin addresses these concerns.

Q How will fipronil, the active ingredient in Termidor, react in severe flooding situations?

A Fipronil has low solubility in water. Fipronil tends to bind to soil, which limits its movement. These factors are extremely favorable for termite control. They help minimize the movement of fipronil from a water saturated soil profile. All of these physical and chemical characteristics contribute to the ability for fipronil to remain active in the treated zones proximal to structure foundations as long as the soil and foundations have not been compromised or the normal time span for degradation has elapsed.

Termidor has provided long-term control (over 10 years) at label rates in varied soil types and climates with the subterranean termite species in the US. BASF expects that residues sufficient for control will be in the soil (that has not been moved) that is still proximal to the foundation elements. This includes soils that have been located in the flooded areas.

Q Under what flooding situations is a Termidor re-treatment needed?

A Termidor can be used to treat areas that have no Termidor treated soil left. Termidor should be used to re-establish protective zones when:

- Soil erosion next to foundations has removed protective termite treatment zones.
- Owners repairing/reclaiming site have moved or removed treated soil.
- Flooding has brought new, untreated soil next to the foundation.
- Foundation elements have shifted/moved or soil subsidence has occurred and untreated soil now requires a Termidor treatment.
- Previous soil treatments (other more water soluble products) are suspected to no longer be in place to protect the structure (from previous use of nonfipronil materials).
- Adjacent patios, porches, driveways, slabs, asphalt pads, etc., have moved and exposed soil areas that can now be treated. Especially when repaired and previous soil is moved, etc.
- Landscaping has been repaired, added, etc and the previously treated zones have been disturbed.
- Repairs to the structure (especially foundation repairs) leads to the presence of untreated zones. Soil treatments in bath traps may be compromised if water flooding has caused subsidence, or removed treated soil.

- Wall repairs, interior remodeling, roofing repairs, etc., can allow PMPs to inspect areas previously unavailable. Opportunities to find aerial infestations and to provide aerial curative Termidor treatments may occur. PMPs will be able to inspect and provide treatments to exposed wooden structural members when needed.
- PMPs and property owners may wish to consider a supplemental treatment to help protect the structure if the original treatment was performed 5 or more years prior to the flooding. Stress on the site from flooding may make this a viable option.
- PMPs need to be especially watchful for signs of soil subsidence proximal to structures. If subsidence is noted, PMPs should recommend structural foundation inspection and possible repair. Termidor supplemental treatments may be needed in these areas.

Q How do I determine the extent of Termidor re-treatment that may be needed at a flood-affected site?

A BASF strongly believes that each site will require a thorough individual inspection. It will also be imperative to work with the property owner(s) with the inspection. BASF believes that sites can be classified based on the amount of damage or modification present on site. One site classification system may be:

- Previously Treated Termidor Site with minor structural damage or changes
- Previously Treated Termidor Site with moderate structural damage or changes
- Previously Treated Termidor Site with severe structural damage or changes
- Previously Treated Termidor Site no longer considered available for protection

Q How can I address the affected Termidor sites that have minor damage or changes?

A Site with Minor Structural Damage or Changes:

- These may include limited soil erosion, limited changes/damages in adjacent patios, slabs, asphalt or concrete driveways, etc. Little to no silting of new untreated soil adjacent to foundation elements. No damage to the foundation of the structure. Little to no water damage to structure.
- Suggestions: Provide a supplemental Termidor treatment to the soil areas adjacent to the foundation elements where soil erosion has occurred or new soil has been brought in. Any repairs made to adjacent slabs, patios, driveways, sidewalks etc., should include supplemental treatment to soil beneath these repaired areas.

Q How can I address the affected Termidor sites that have moderate damage or changes?

A Site with Moderate Structural Damage or Changes:

- These sites may have moderate structural damage or changes, but basically the foundation elements are still unchanged and viable. Damage or changes may include extensive soil erosion, heaving or damaging of adjacent patios, slabs, asphalt or concrete driveways, etc. Silting of new untreated soil adjacent to foundation elements. Water damage to structure is expected.
- Suggestions: Provide supplemental Termidor treatment to the soil areas adjacent to the foundation elements where soil erosion has occurred, owners have removed soil or new soil has been brought in. Will need to be more extensive due to degree of erosion, repair work, silting observed. Any repairs made to adjacent slabs, patios, driveways, sidewalks etc., should include supplemental treatment to soil beneath these repaired areas. Opportunities to inspect repaired/re modeled areas will be more extensive. Preventive treatments of wooden elements may be an option.

Q How can I address the affected Termidor sites that have severe damage or changes?

A Site with Severe Structural Damage or Changes:

- These sites will have severe or extensive damage or changes, and the foundation elements are damaged or have moved, etc. Damage or changes may include extensive soil erosion, heaving or damaging of adjacent patios, slabs, stoops, asphalt or concrete driveways, etc. Silting of new untreated soil adjacent to foundation elements. Water damage to structure will likely be extensive.
- Suggestions: After foundation elements have been repaired, provide a new supplemental full perimeter Termidor treatment to the soil areas adjacent to the foundation elements. Will need to be thorough due to more extensive degree of erosion, repair work, silting, etc. Any repairs made to adjacent slabs, patios, driveways, sidewalks etc should include supplemental treatment to soil beneath these repaired areas. Opportunities to inspect repaired/ remodeled areas will be available. Preventive treatments of wooden elements may be an option.

Q How can I address the affected Termidor treated sites that are no longer available for protection?

A Site no longer considered available for protection:

- These sites will have massive or extensive structural damage or changes. Foundation elements may have moved entirely or been destroyed.
- Suggestions: PMP may suggest to owner that protection from termites for the present structure is no longer an option and that if a new structure is to be placed on the property that a termite pre-construction treatment will be the best option.

Q We have Formosan termites in our area. How may extensive flooding and damage affect Formosan termites and their distribution?

A We suggest that Formosan termites may end up being more widespread in these areas because of the immediate destructive and dispersing nature of storms. BASF also strongly suggests that these termites will be moved dramatically by man with ongoing and pending clean up, removal of infested trees, transport of infested mulches, chippings, etc, and removal of infested buildings and building components. Many of these will end up in various landfills. Unfortunately, many will end up in ditches, pastures, countryside areas, swamps, etc. As a consequence of this, I suggest that Formosan termite pressure will be more widespread

and in time more severe. Native termites will also be spread in this manner. This is a critical concern because termite contracts sold to customers are normally long-term agreements. This is a major reason for providing supplemental treatments that help provide a complete or Exterior Perimeter/Localized Interior Termidor treatment to the customer's sites.

It is imperative that the Pest Management Professional perform a thorough inspection of the sites. From this, and communication with the property owners a plan can be formed and implemented to help protect structures from termite infestation. Please remember many property owners will be performing structural and landscaping repairs after the flooding events. Please work with the owners so that a new, supplemental termite treatment will not be adversely affected by landscaping changes, structural repair, etc.

If you have further questions, please contact your BASF Sales or Technical representatives or visit: pestcontrol.basf.us