Q: Does Termidor termiticide/insecticide last longer than five years when applied as a termiticide to soil?
A: YES. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA-FS) thoroughly evaluates termiticides for federal registration. Finalized results of USDA-FS testing on Termidor show (Shelton et al 2015):

- Termidor termiticide/insecticide outperformed all other commercially available professional termite control products, providing effective, long-lasting control and protection against termites at research sites in four states (AZ, MS, FL & SC).
- Untreated control plots placed near Termidor termiticide/insecticide-treated plots were also impacted, which had not happened in prior USDA-FS testing and supports the Transfer Effect from exposed to non-exposed termites in untreated areas.
- **One hundred percent** termite control for at least 10 years in concrete slab tests (in some cases 15 years).
- **One hundred percent** termite control for at least five years in ground board tests, with 96% control through 11 years after treatment.

Q: Will Termidor termiticide/insecticide survive a hurricane or flooding event?
A: YES. Termidor termiticide/insecticide (active ingredient fipronil) has low water solubility, virtually no volatility and binds very tightly to organic matter and clay in soils (Holmes and Castle 2005). Termidor termiticide/insecticide remains in the soil where it is applied and isn’t moved by leaching, even in areas of consistently high moisture (Keef er and Gold 2014). These physical and chemical characteristics contribute to the ability of Termidor termiticide/insecticide to remain active in the treated zones proximal to structure foundations if the treated soil has not been physically moved or the foundations have not been compromised (BASF 2015).

Q: Must hundreds of gallons of termiticide be applied to protect structures?
A: NO. This is a common misunderstanding. Pest professionals use water as the carrier to apply formulated Termidor termiticide/insecticide to the soil adjacent to or associated with structure foundations or slab penetrations. For example, to treat a 200 linear-foot structure at one foot of soil depth, 80 gallons of water carries approximately eight ounces of the product’s active ingredient to approximately two tons of soil (Termidor® SC Termiticide/Insecticide Label 2020).
Q: Does Termidor termiticide/insecticide treatment cause a secondary repellency in the continuous treated zone leading to treatment failure around structures?

A: NO. The behavior of “burying” or sealing off foraging tunnels in response to dead or poisoned termites (due to bacteria, fungi, or termiticide treatment) has been studied extensively in laboratory experiments. These laboratory experiments often force termites to forage in one-dimensional artificial setups (rather than in three-dimensional soil that exists around structures). The termites are restricted to foraging in a test tube bioassay (e.g., through treated soil) or through Tygon® tubing (increasing foraging distance from a nest) that leads to specific “choice” treated soils (e.g., fipronil treated or not fipronil treated). In this scenario, termites eventually begin dying and the foraging tunnel (the only option or one of two choice options) is physically blocked. A recent report described this behavior as “secondary repellency” from the termiticide treatment and suggested this could lead to liquid termiticide treatment failure.

Actual Termidor termiticide/insecticide treatment field data does not support this conclusion. The Termidor termiticide/insecticide family of products has remediated and/or protected over 8 million structures since 2000 with an extremely low failure/retreatment rate (Potter and Hillery 2003). Experimental Use Permit (EUP) testing data since 1996 has a less than 1% retreatment rate as a result of remedial termiticide treatments at 647 structures (BASF EPA submitted EUP data). Under real world conditions, termites foraging in three-dimensional treated soil will continually enter the Termidor termiticide/insecticide-treated zones at multiple sites along the treated foundation (because the termites don’t “remember” the outcome of the previous foraging activity through the non-repellent Termidor termiticide/insecticide-treated zone) leading to enhanced movement of treated soil, transfer mechanisms and ultimately, mortality.

Q: Can liquid termiticides and bait termiticides be used in conjunction?

A: YES. PMPs using combined bait and liquid termiticide treatments report remediation of active infestation (structural protection) while also indicating continuing bait station hits and active feeding on bait. There are many potential termite colonies in the direct vicinity of a structure and its surrounding landscape. Parman and Vargo (2008) reported an average of 25 native subterranean termite colonies per acre in North Carolina. Termites within the same colony that was remediated from the structure or from a completely different colony could still hit the bait stations through alternate foraging galleries.

Bottom line: Termidor termiticide/insecticide protects the structure from all colonies!

For other Termidor termiticide/insecticide FAQs, please visit BASF’s US Pest Control webpage @ https://pestcontrol.basf.us/multimedia/termidor--frequently-asked-questions.html

Product Stewardship is everybody’s responsibility. Always read and follow label directions.

References:


