

# POST STORM LIQUID TERMITE TREATMENTS

## Liquid termiticide treatment in the aftermath of a major storm event

A termiticide treatment provides homes and structures with necessary protection from subterranean termites. This includes applications made around and beneath homes at the time of construction as well as remedial treatments to infested structures.

Flooding and other effects associated with significant storm events can cause disruption to termiticide treatment zones. If the termiticide layer is disturbed, the treatment zone may no longer be effective and a termiticide may need to be reapplied in order to re-establish protection.

Therefore, it is important for the Pest Management Professional (PMP) to assess each situation on an individual basis and re-treat to the extent needed to restore the treatment zone. The decision to re-treat a home or structure with a liquid termiticide should be based on several factors:

### 1. Extent of disruption of soil beneath and around the home or structure

Damage associated with storms ranges from minor flooding or wind damage to total destruction. The amount of disruption to the

treatment zone can also vary widely. For example, there may be instances in which flooding has not occurred but an uprooted tree near the structure has disrupted the soil termiticide treatment. In such a case, a limited treatment in the affected area is sufficient to re-establish protection. On the other hand, if the structure experienced an extended period of flooding, or if large amounts of silt, sludge or muddy soil have been deposited on top of the treated soil, then the treatment is no longer effective and a full re-treatment should be done. Similarly, if fast moving water has caused erosion of the treated soil, re-treatment should be performed after restoration of the grade.

### 2. Activities associated with cleanup or reconstruction that could disrupt the termiticide barrier

If an owner is in the process of cleaning up debris or rebuilding a portion or all of a home or structure, many activities will result in movement of existing soil. Reconstructive measures, including but not limited to altering foundation components, significantly changing the soil grade or landscaping around the structure, will affect the termiticide barrier. The extent to which soil is disturbed will determine whether re-treatment is required and the degree to which re-treatment should be applied in



order to restore the proper treatment zone. In some cases, this may require complete re-treatment where reconstruction has been extensive, and in other cases may require only a limited treatment to restore the termiticide treatment.

### 3. Extent and duration of flooding of the structure's foundation

Extensive flooding over a period of days can lead to the loss of some types of termiticides. Altriset® termiticide has a relatively low water solubility (~ 1 ppm) which reduces the potential for movement. Rather, the movement of untreated soil into, or erosion from, the termiticide treated zone would present the most likely cause for re-treatment.

Where untreated soil has washed under or around the structure, a booster treatment should be applied. If the exterior soil has been covered by silt, this would also result in the need for re-treatment. PMP's should ensure that the soil is not saturated prior to treatment, including both partial and complete reapplications.

### 4. In instances where Altriset was not previously used for pre-treatment

Re-treatments can be done regardless of what measures have been used to initially protect homes and structures from termites. Many times, records of application have been lost and the treatment material will be unknown. Altriset is an ideal supplement to baits. If borate treatments were previously used for pre-treatment, the protective barrier has probably leached out of the sills and studs, and Altriset can be used to thoroughly re-treat the soil.

### 5. Length of time since the last termiticide treatment

Most termiticides last 5-10 years in normal conditions under a structure. If the last application was nearly five years before the flooding event, then a reapplication is recommended. It is important to note that all termiticides subjected to wet conditions are more prone to biological degradation. Therefore, if the termiticide is nearing the five-year mark since the last application, the increased degradation may warrant a re-treatment.

## Next Steps After the Storm

The key factor that determines whether a re-treatment with Altriset is needed is soil movement, either deposition or erosion. Repair and reconstruction provides the PMP an opportunity to evaluate the potential for future termite damage and take the necessary precautions to protect the structure. Regardless of the extent of hurricane damage, it is strongly recommended that each affected home or structure be closely inspected over the next couple of years. In this way, each structure can be adequately protected from future termite damage.

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