The 'Unmighty' Termite Barriers

Termites are undisputedly the most destructive of all structural pests. Termites are called social insects because they live in societies with divisions such as queen, worker and soldier amongst them. Termites are wood-destroying pests most commonly found all over the planet. New developments and centrally heated homes all over the United States, Europe and Australia have made them the breeding centers of termites. According to Bjostad, termites cause ***$22 billion in structural damage annually around the world.*** This includes $11 billion in annual damage in the United States, including damage in Colorado, where many residents are unaware of termite infestation. ***It has been said that there are two types of homes in the USA: those with termites and those that will have them.***

The estimated cost of termite treatment is 200 millions Euros per year. If added the cost of repairs, replacement or destruction of structures, furniture, walls and other woodwork, the annual cost in France would be around 500 millions Euros a year. More and more countries are now heading towards a termite barrier system installed during the construction phase of the house.

Termite Barrier Systems or specially developed trenches and plastic sheet coverings block termites from entering a home through the basement, footings, and foundation to reduce the chances that they reach one's walls. A termite barrier is a plastic sheet containing anti –termite chemicals because plastic sheets alone cannot keep these disruptive insects away, which tend to nibble and make their way through plastic sheets also. French clause in the law states that all new buildings must be termite proof by employing either physical or chemical barriers.

Q. What is a termite barrier system?

Ans. A termite barrier is a physical object that keeps termites from penetrating the foundation of a house or accessing other parts of the property.

The table below illustrates the toxicity and thermal stability of active ingredient in popular and widely used physico- chemical type of termite barriers. One cannot fail but observe that currently only toxic termiticides are used for all such purposes. These are not only hazardous and lethal for workers who process sheets but also fatal for non- target animals such as domestic pets and others.

Termirepel®™

In contrast, ***Termirepel®™ if incorporated in termite barrier sheets gives a vantage point due to its non- toxic nature, high temperature stability and of course the effectiveness.*** Termirepel®™ is extensively used in cable & wire industry, agricultural tubing and wood protection applications. Termirepel®™ is available in masterbatch (LDPE/ EVA) form for convenience of handling, storage & processing. (www.termirepel.com)

Did you know?

New research shows that termites cause more damage to homes than fires.

BRAND	COMPANY	MAIN INGREDIENT	TOXICITY CLASS	TOXICITY COMMENTS	THERMAL STABILITY	LABEL MARK
Termifilm™	Cecil	Permethrin	Class II to Class III, US-EPA has classified it as RUP (Restricted Use Pesticide).	Permethrin, like all synthetic pyrethroids, is a neurotoxin. Symptoms include tremors, incoordination, elevated body temperature, increased aggressive behavior, and disruption of learning. Laboratory tests suggest that permethrin is more acutely toxic to children than to adults.	**Boils at 200 C. Thus, most of insecticide evaporates during processing itself, moreover giving toxic fumes.**	**Warning- Poison** 
KORDON™	BASF	Deltamethrin	Class I to II, US- EPA classified as highly to moderately toxic	Deltamethrin can induce skin sensations in exposed workers. There have been several non-fatal cases of poisoning following occupational exposure when safety precautions were not followed. Vertigo and numbness, itching, tingling, and burning of the skin have been frequently reported	Mp- 98-101°C, Bp & decomposition- 300 °C. Stable at polymer processing temperatures	**Danger- Poison** 
Xylophene	Dyrup	Bifenthrin-erucamide	Class II, US EPA classified as moderately toxic	PAN Bad Actor!* US EPA-Carcinogen, Very highly toxic to marine/ aquatic life	Mp- 68-70.6 C, Flash Point- >100 C, **Decomposes before boiling**	**Danger- Poison** 
Not Applicable		**Termirepel®™**	Class IV, US EPA, practically non- toxic, FIFRA exempted, ROHS compliant	It is as non- toxic as an apple/ banana to humans.	Active stable upto 1800 C	**No label required**