

## **PRE-BAITING/DIRECT BAITING**

### General Information

#### Product Information

The active ingredient, novaluron, is an insect development inhibitor. When consumed by a termite, novaluron impairs the ability of a termite to properly synthesize chitin and inhibits the termite's ability to molt. Molting is the process by which termites, at certain points in their development, shed their existing exoskeleton and form a replacement exoskeleton. Termites that attempt to molt after ingesting an amount of bait sufficient to impair their molting process either die or are incapacitated by their inability to complete the molting process. Insect development inhibitors such as novaluron are characterized as slow acting toxicants; however, their action is slow only when they affect a termite at the point in its life cycle when it molts. Because all the termites in a colony do not molt at the same time, the effect of novaluron on the colony as a whole is progressive. This progressive effect is one of the key attributes of novaluron enabling termite colony effects.

Sufficient consumption of bait by a termite colony can cause a decline in the number of colony members. Such a decline, if sustained by continued consumption of bait by the colony, can significantly impair colony vitality. Further, continued consumption of bait by remaining colony members may ultimately result in the total elimination of the colony. The extent of the decline of the colony, the speed of its decline, and the possibility of its elimination depends upon the extent to which bait is made continuously available to a colony for consumption and the extent to which members of the colony consume it. Adherence to the Use Directions can increase the likelihood of colony elimination; however, conditions or circumstances beyond the control of the user may prevent or substantially delay colony elimination. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, alternate non-bait food sources that reduce the extent to which the colony depends on the bait as a food source, excess moisture, low or high temperatures, or abandonment of feeding on the bait by the colony.

#### Use Directions

This product is intended for use in ongoing management and control of subterranean termite colonies in the ground around and under any type of building

or other object (structure). It does not exclude termites from a structure. Instead, it suppresses or eliminates termite colonies. It affects termite colonies only if they consume it. Therefore, sufficient consumption of bait by all subterranean termite colonies that present an existing or potential hazard to the structure may, subject to the limitations stated herein, protect the structure against subterranean termite attack.

If the cycle of pre-baiting and baiting around a structure is interrupted or discontinued, new colonies occupying the territory of suppressed or eliminated colonies, existing colonies that were suppressed but not eliminated, existing colonies never baited or colonies that were pre-baited may forage at points of possible entry into and infest the structure.

For this reason, maintain the cycle of pre-baiting and baiting or offer continuous bait for as long as it is desirable to suppress or eliminate subterranean termites.

If a soil applied liquid or granular termiticide treatment is performed in conjunction with an installation of the bait stations, DO NOT treat in the area of installed stations (preferably not within 2 feet of stations). Because the use of bait may be a multi-step process, localized treatment(s) of areas of the structure infested with active termites at the time of pre-baiting or baiting, using soil applied termiticides may provide more immediate control of termites in those parts of the structure than bait. Preventative critical area soil or wood treatments may be performed in conjunction with station installation. DO NOT treat in areas of installed stations during routine pesticide applications.

#### Station Location Selection

To reduce the potential for tampering with and disturbing stations, choose points of station installation that minimize installed station visibility. DO NOT place product in areas where barrier type termiticides are known to have been previously applied, such as within 2 feet of the foundation wall.

Choose areas for station installation located at or near points of known or suspected termite entry into the structure.

If a point of accessible ground is not located within 10 feet of a point of known termite entry (due to an intervening hardened construction surface such as a concrete slab), it may be advisable to create an access to the ground through that surface close to the point of known entry and install a station at that access.

Once termite activity has occurred at a station and bait consumption has begun, it may be advisable, depending on the rate of bait consumption in that station and nearby stations, to install 1 or more supplemental stations in the immediate vicinity

(up to 5 feet) of the infested station(s) in order that bait consumption by the colony be maximized.

### Station Installation

To install a station, excavate or form a hole in the ground approximately the same size and dimensions as those of the station. Insert the station into the hole.

Maximizing contact between the exterior of the station and the earth during installation will increase the probability of termite entrance into the station. If the station is inserted into an opening created through a hardened construction surface (such as a concrete slab, asphalt, etc.), insert the station below the surface (in contact with the ground) and seal securely.

Install stations at, or preferably within, approximately 5 feet of points of known, probable, or suspected termite foraging and at other critical areas. Such areas may include areas with concentrations of cellulose-containing debris, such as mulch or wood scraps in contact with the ground, areas of moderate soil moisture, shaded areas, areas containing plant root systems, bath traps, visible termite foraging tubes, etc.

Install stations around a structure such that, except where sufficient access to the ground is not available, the maximum interval between any two stations does not exceed 20 feet. If the distance between two points of accessible ground around the structure exceeds 30 feet, it may be advisable to form one or more openings in the surface creating the inaccessibility to facilitate baiting between those points.

If the structure has an accessible crawl space, stations can be installed in the crawl space in lieu of or in addition to installing stations around the structure; however, either the interior or the exterior of the crawl space must contain a complete set of stations, as defined by this label. Stations can be installed within a slab structure at existing or created openings in the slab surface through which ground is accessible and into which the station can be installed in a secure manner.

### Pre-baiting Service Routine

The pre-baiting service routine is to be followed if an operator is using pre-bait followed by bait placement as needed or direct baiting only select stations around a structure.

### Inspecting a Station and Placing Bait

To inspect a station, remove the cover and visually examine the interior for the presence of termites, being careful to minimize disturbance of the termites, if present. If live termites are present in the station, place bait into the station.

If it appears, upon reinspection, that  $>1/2$  of the bait has been consumed, replace the bait. If termites are not present, inspect bait or pre-bait for excessive decay or moisture saturation. Replace excessively decayed bait or pre-bait.

Replace the station cover securely.

If termites have not been present in the station for approximately 60 days, any remaining bait may be removed. If bait is removed, clean out station and replace with pre-bait or bait. Alternatively, bait may remain in the station if it is in good condition and  $\geq 1/2$  remains. If termites have abandoned the station, possibly due to reductions in termite activity related to low temperatures during the period of predicted limited termite activity (see Adjustments To Inspection Scheduling), it may be advisable to leave the station and bait in place and recheck the station again after the period of predicted limited termite activity has elapsed before removing and replacing the bait. If termites have permanently abandoned the station due to excessive moisture, remove the saturated bait and re-bait the station with fresh bait at that time or after the excess moisture condition has abated.

If a station, upon repeated inspection, is found to contain excess moisture (water standing at the bottom of the station or cavity, etc.), relocate the station, if possible, to a nearby area where the soil is better drained or alternately, modify the station location to prevent water from collecting in the station by, for example, creating a sump area under the installed station or at the bottom of the cavity.

### Scheduling of Inspections

If termite activity is known to be present in or on the structure at the time the stations are initially installed, inspect all stations at 60 days after the date of completion of the initial station installation. If no termite activity is present in or on the structure at the time stations are initially installed, inspect all stations for the first time 120 days after the date of completion of initial station installation.

Thereafter, inspect stations at 120 days after the date of the last inspection of the stations. After feeding has stopped, and there has been no activity for one year, inspect the stations every 6 months. If activity returns, place bait in the active station(s) and inspect every 120 days or 4 months. Stations may be inspected more frequently (additional inspections) than prescribed, if desired.

### Adjustments to Inspection Scheduling

Decreases in elapsed time between inspections of a baited station may be warranted if consumption of all the bait in the station occurs during the interval between any two inspections.

Because subterranean termites are cold-blooded (poikilothermic) animals, low temperatures can substantially reduce or stop their activity close to the earth's surface during a certain period of the year. For this reason, if the temperature falls low enough, termites may cease to feed in stations or the onset of feeding in stations may be delayed until temperatures have recovered above a certain level for a long enough period of time. Reductions in termite activity that are the result of low temperatures may make inspections of stations unnecessary for as long as low temperatures prevail in the area.

The temperature at which termite activity is substantially curtailed may vary significantly between different geographic areas and with different species of termites.

However, generally speaking, termite activity will be reduced in the stations during those times of the year during which the average daily mean exterior air temperature is below 50°F. The operator should always make allowances for local circumstances when considering increasing elapsed time between inspections. If inspection interval is on a 4 month cycle, under no circumstances should more than 6 months elapse between inspections of stations. If inspection interval is on a 6 month cycle, under no circumstances should more than 8 months elapse between inspections.

DO NOT allow extra time between inspections if stations are located in an area in or under a structure in which the average daily mean air temperature is expected to remain above 50°F and termites are actively consuming bait in the stations. Inspection intervals must comply with state regulations, where applicable.

## Limitations, Restrictions, and Exceptions

### Pre-baiting/Direct Baiting

Pre-baiting is a process by which termite activity is established at a location prior to the application of bait at that location. Once they have consumed the pre-bait, termites can normally be induced to consume the bait. These termites then attract other colony members to the bait station where they, in turn, also consume the bait. Use BASF approved pre-bait to establish activity in the station. If there is termite activity in a pre-baited station, make bait continuously available for colony consumption by placing bait in the station and replenishing consumed amounts of bait for as long as termite activity is present in the station. See Inspecting a Station and Placing Bait for details.

Alternatively, bait can be placed in stations at any time prior to termite activity

(direct baiting), with or without the presence of termites.

Method

[Directed](#)

[Bait](#)

Timings

[Direct Baiting: At any time prior to termite activity.](#)