

Vikane®

Whole Structure Fumigation with Vikane® gas fumigant.

SPECIALTY GAS FUMIGANT

What California Homeowners Need to Know

Drywood termites and termite damage can threaten the integrity of your largest investment — your home. What do you do when your pest management professional tells you that your home needs to be fumigated for drywood termites? Do not worry — you are not alone.

Millions of homeowners battle termite infestations every year, and many of their homes are treated by whole-structure fumigation with Vikane® gas fumigant.

The following answers to common questions about structural fumigation will provide peace of mind as you prepare your home for fumigation with Vikane, the most effective way to eliminate drywood termites.

Did you know...?

*Millions of
homeowners battle
termite infestations
every year!*

What is the fumigation process?

Your professional fumigator tents your home with large tarps, prepares the interior, seals the tarps, and releases a warning agent (chloropicrin) into the structure. Then, your fumigator introduces Vikane through a special hose attached to a fumigant cylinder located outside your home.

Contained in the structure for a predetermined time, the fumigant penetrates deep into wood to eliminate drywood termites. After the fumigation is complete, your fumigator aerates your home and certifies the fumigant has cleared from your home, allowing you and your family to re-enter.

What is Vikane® gas fumigant?

Vikane is a colorless, odorless gas that is non-detectable by people during fumigation, as well as non-staining, non-corrosive and non-flammable. As a gas, Vikane dissipates into the atmosphere and does not deplete the ozone.

What is chloropicrin?

Chloropicrin, a warning agent, is a colorless liquid with a strong odor, causing tearing of the eyes and throat irritation when used at low concentrations. Chloropicrin serves as a deterrent from early or accidental entry into a structure under fumigation. At the end of the fumigation, your fumigator aerates both chloropicrin and Vikane from the structure before allowing you to re-enter your home.

What precautions are taken to help ensure my family's safety?

Your fumigator takes many precautions to help ensure the safety of you, your family, your pets and property before, during and after the fumigation process. For example, your licensed fumigator will:

- Release chloropicrin, the warning agent used with Vikane, to warn anyone against entry into the structure.
- Secure the doors on your home through the use of interior locks and additional locking devices.
- Use sophisticated equipment to detect when Vikane has aerated and the home is clear for re-entry.



Preparing for Whole Structure Fumigation - California

What do I need to do to prepare for fumigation with Vikane® gas fumigant?

In addition to the work performed by your fumigator, it is your responsibility to help prepare your home for the fumigation. Taking the following steps prior to fumigation helps ensure its success, resulting in the elimination of drywood termites from your home. Check with your fumigator for additional home preparation information.

The Day Before Fumigation

- Water the soil up to 18 inches from the outer walls of your home to protect outdoor plants and shrubs.
- Cut back foliage, shrubbery and landscaping at least 18 inches from the structure to allow room for the tarps.
- Remove or double-bag any food, feed, drugs (including tobacco products) and medicinals in special Nylofume® bags your fumigator provides. You do not need to bag or remove items in plastic, glass, or metal bottles, cans or jars with the original manufacturer's seal intact (see sidebar).

- Seal the Nylofume bags one at a time by twisting the tops, or folding down and sealing with tape, twisty ties, string or rubber bands. **DO NOT TIE THE BAGS IN A KNOT.** Your fumigator can provide special instructions on proper bagging procedures for you.

- Double-bag cold and frozen foods and leave them in the refrigerator and freezer. Remove shelves from the refrigerator and freezer to make it easier to stack the bags inside.

- Be sure to remove or double-bag anything that will be ingested (medicine, spices, etc.)

- Remember to make arrangements for overnight accommodations for you and your pets, as the fumigation will typically keep you out of your home three days and two nights in California. Your fumigator will give you specifics on the length of the fumigation including when the structure will be cleared for re-entry.
- Please keep in mind the fumigation may need to be rescheduled if the weather is uncooperative. High winds and rain may hinder a fumigation and cause potential danger to fumigators.

The Day of Fumigation

- Complete preparations of food, feed, drugs and medicinals.
- Remove all houseplants and if necessary, relocate exterior potted plants that potentially could be damaged.
- Evacuate all people and pets from the structure.
- Open or remove plastic covers on mattresses; remove mattresses completely enveloped in plastic with no built-in air vents or zippers, such as baby mattresses.

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Vikane is a federally Restricted Use Pesticide. Always read and follow label directions.

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After The Fumigation

- Your fumigator will place a notification on your door once the aeration process is complete indicating you may reoccupy your home. Do not enter your home if you do not see this notification.
- It is unnecessary to wash dishes, linens, clothing, etc., as Vikane is a gas and will dissipate from the structure.
- After a successful fumigation with Vikane® gas fumigant, all of the drywood termites in your structure will be eliminated.

If you have any questions about how to prepare your home for fumigation, please contact your fumigator.

Ask your fumigator to help you determine additional items that need to be double-bagged or removed prior to fumigation. A good rule of thumb is *“When in doubt, take it out.”* Here are some examples.

Double-bag or remove these items:

- Chips, pasta, rice and other foods packaged in plastic bags
- Cereals, crackers and other foods packaged in cardboard boxes (even if the boxes have never been opened)
- Spices, salt and pepper shakers, and other items where the seal has been broken
- Eggs
- Butter, cream cheese and any other items stored in a resealed container, including items stored in Tupperware containers
- Fruits and vegetables
- Bags of pet food and bird seed, as well as opened cans



You DO NOT need to bag or remove these items:

- Ice and water
- Unopened cans (including home-canned goods)
- Cosmetics, such as lipstick, shampoo, soaps
- Dental hygiene products (including toothpaste, mouthwash, dental adhesives, and dental whitening products)
- All externally applied lotions and ointments
- Unopened soda cans and glass bottles
- Unopened bottled liquor and wine (stored horizontally if sealed with a cork stopper).