

Do's and Don'ts of Fumigation



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

What is the fumigation process?

The fumigation process usually takes approximately 24 to 48 hours. Your professional fumigator tents your home with large tarps, prepares the interior, seals the tarps, and release a warning agent into the structure. Then, your fumigator introduces Methyl Bromide through a special hose attached to a fumigant cylinder located outside your home.

Contained in the structure for a pre-determined time, the fumigant penetrated deep into wood to eliminate drywood termites. After the fumigation is complete, your fumigator aerates and certifies the fumigation of your home, allowing you and your family to re-enter.

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:

- Secure the doors on your home with additional locking devices.
- Use sophisticated equipment to detect when Methyl Bromide has dissipated and the home is clear for re-entry.

What do I need to do to prepare for the fumigation?

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. Check with your fumigator for additional home preparation information.

The day before the fumigation...

- Water the soil up to 46cm from the outer walls of your home to protect outdoor plants and shrubs.
- Cut back foliage, shrubbery and landscaping at least 46cm from the structures to allow room for the tarps.
- Remember to make arrangements for overnight accommodations for you and your pets, as your home may be under fumigation for 24 to

48 hours.

- Please keep in mind the fumigation may need to be rescheduled if the weather is uncooperative. High winds and rain may hinder fumigation and cause potential danger to fumigators.
- If you have any questions about how to prepare your home for fumigation, please contact your fumigator.

List of items to be removed by the occupier prior to fumigation:

1. Eggs, butter, milk, fresh meat and fish. All fresh fruit and vegetables, bread and cakes.
2. Pot plants, pets, fish in tank, bird seed and dog food.
3. All foam and sponge latex rubber. Yoga mats, pillows (feather and kapok), scatter cushions, kid leather, suede jackets, army coats, wetsuits and eider downs.
4. Furs, Persian carpets, Chinese carpets, thick pile shaggy carpets, any pure wool products.
5. Building blueprints, chemicals used in processing photography.
6. Precious flower within 1 meter of the outside wall. These can be replaced after fumigation.
7. Any items pointed out prior to fumigation.

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.
- Ice, opened bottled drinking water.
- Butter, cream cheese and any other items stored in a rescaled container, including items stored in Tupperware containers.
- Bags of pet food and bird seed, as well as opened cans.

You need not bag nor removed these items:

- Unopened cans (including home-canned goods).
- Cosmetics, such as lipstick.
- Unopened soda cans and glass bottles.
- Shampoo, soaps.
- Unopened bottles of liquor and wine (Stored horizontally).

General information to the client:

BEFORE FUMIGATION: All items as per the above list to be removed from the building to be fumigated. The building must be vacated for a period of two days, including two nights. Access will be required to the roof void of the building. All rooms will be inspected immediately prior to the fumigation.

DURING FUMIGATION: Only authorized, working personnel will be allowed on site.

AFTER FUMIGATION: Air all rooms, cupboards, chest of drawers. You do not have to wash or rinse anything after the fumigation as there is no residue.

Interior preparation before sealing:

- All items for human consumption such as foods, beverages, drugs and medicines which are not in air tight containers such as sealed glass or metal must be removed from the structure prior to fumigation. When fumigating, you can leave these items inside the structure if they are sealed in doubled Nylofume bags. This includes food in refrigerators and freezers. When fumigating with Methyl Bromide, everything must be removed from the building.
- Remove all mattresses and pillows

with waterproof covers, such as, "can't wet" mattresses for infants of sickrooms. If these items cannot be removed you must remove the covers on them. (Especially for bed bug treatments.)

- All heating elements must be unplugged (pianos, organs, printers, computers, etc.) and if there are gas appliances with pilot lights the gas must be turned off.
- Turn of all heaters and air conditioners.
- Electricity must be available for the fumigation.
- Open all openings into attics and sub floors. Leave screened window; drawers and cabinets open.
- Unlock and open all interior doors. Keys must be available to the fumigator in charge.
- We recommend that valuables, such as jewelry and cash be either locked in a safe or removed from the structure prior to fumigation.
- All people must leave and all living things such as animals and plants must be removed from the structure prior to the start of the fumigation.
- Under no circumstances can anyone enter the building during the course of the fumigation and until it has been cleared for re-occupancy.

Know what needs to be bagged for fumigation:

Certain steps must be taken to keep food items and other perishable goods protected during the fumigation process.

Items that will not require bagging:

- Any food, feed, drugs (including tobacco products) and medicines in glass, plastic or metal bottles, jars or cans with the original manufacturer's airtight seal intact.
- Any shampoo and soaps.
- Cosmetics, lotions, and any other topical creams, oils and ointments that is non-medicinal.

Items that must be bagged or removed from the structure being fumigated:

- When the original manufacturer's airtight seal is broken on any food, feed, drugs and medicines in glass, plastic or metal bottles, jars or cans.

- Beverages, snacks, sauces, drugs, medicines or other items in metallic foil lined containers such as pouches, boxes or blister packs.
- Anything in re-sealable containers, including plastic containers, such as milk, butter, sour cream and cottage cheese.
- Any other forms of produce.
- Medicine, tobacco, vitamins and other ingestible pills, supplements and lozenges.
- Pet food and animal feed in bags and boxes.
- Ice cubes should be discarded and the icemaker turned off.
- **DO NOT FORGET THOSE ITEMS IN REFRIGERATORS AND FREEZERS.**
- When in doubt, take it out!

The day of the fumigation...

- Remove all plants from your home, including those on outdoor patios.
- Evacuate all people and pets from the structure.
- Remove mattresses completely enveloped in plastic, such as baby mattresses with waterproof covers.
- Remove or double-bag any food, feed, drugs and medicines in special Nylofume® bags. You do not need to bag or remove items in plastic, glass, or metal bottles, cans or jars with the original manufacturer's airtight seal intact.
- 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 BAGS IN A KNOT.**
- Double-bag cold and frozen foods and leave them in 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.)
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After the fumigation...

- It is unnecessary to wash dishes, linens, clothing etc.
- Remember once your fumigation is complete, all termites and woodborer in your structure should be eliminated.