

# Technical Note #7



## The Need

Australia is one of the few countries where dusting has been used to eradicate subterranean termites. Over the last forty years, arsenic trioxide ( $As_2O_3$ ) dust has been traditionally used as the initial treatment to eradicate termite infestations in Australia.

In 2000 an alternative dust product to arsenic trioxide was introduced to the Australian market. The active ingredient was a chitin synthesis inhibitor (CSI), which acts to disrupt the moulting process in termites. However, being an IGR (insect growth regulator), the time taken to eliminate termite activity can be up to 12-18 months. This is the same story for baiting systems.

While a fast acting toxicant is not necessarily the desired outcome (termites may die before returning to the nest), rate of termite elimination is important to consumers and the integrity of Pest Control Operators who are charging for the service. A lag time of 2-4 weeks from time of treatment to elimination of termite activity is the optimum.

The pest control industry has been searching for a product to be brought to market that was more effective than arsenic trioxide or IGR's.

The search is over, as BASF introduces **Termidor® Dust**.

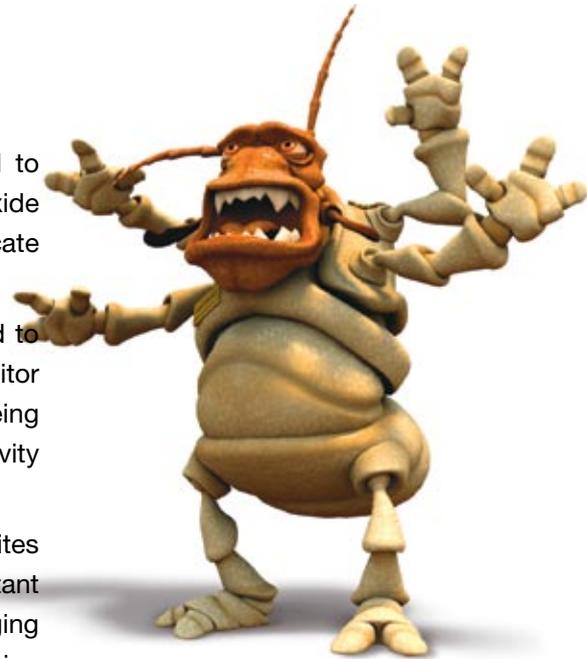
## The Research

Termidor Dust is the culmination of over 10 years research and development in Australia to find the perfect termite colony elimination product to suit our termites and our conditions.

Termidor Dust was first tested in Australia in the mid 1990's and since then there have been 96 field trials conducted on houses, bridges, power poles, trees, in bait stations and termite mounds across Australia. The list of termite species tested is impressive:

- *Coptotermes acinaciformis*
- *Coptotermes frenchi*
- *Coptotermes lacteus*
- *Coptotermes raffrayi*
- *Coptotermes michaelsoni*
- *Mastotermes darwiniensis*
- *Schedorhinotermes seclusus*
- *Schedorhinotermes intermedius*
- *Nasutitermes (various species)*
- *Microcerotermes spp*

In all field trial sites, termites have been eliminated from the treated structure and from the central nest when the nest has been positively identified. In nearly all cases this has been achieved within 2 to 4 weeks after treatment.

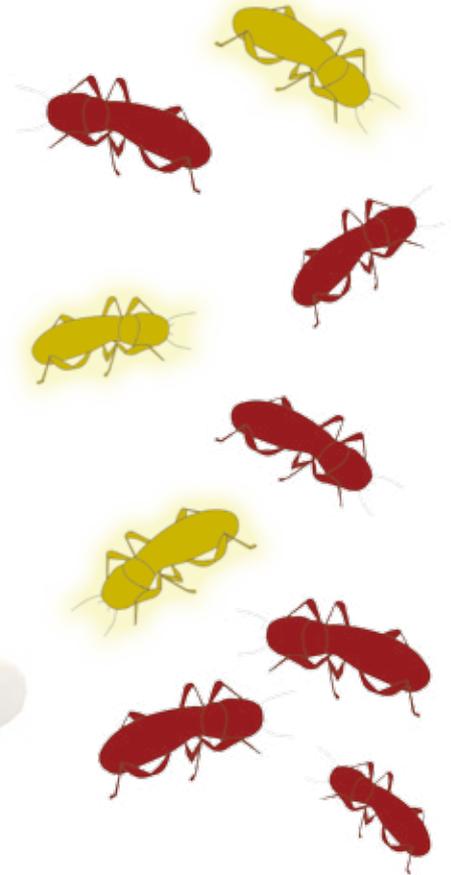


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## The Innovation

Termidor Dust is proudly designed, researched, developed and manufactured in Australia. Some of the major innovations that have been developed via the 10 years of research in Australia include the following:

- **Edible Formulation** - Termidor Dust is non-repellent and reports from some of the field trials show that termites have actually eaten the dust. The reason for this is that Termidor Dust is 99.5% finely processed food grade cellulose – a termite’s natural food. The type of cellulose used is the same as found in the most popular baiting systems. Not only does it work via direct contact to the termite’s body but also by ingestion as if it were a bait.
- **Termite Tracking** - A significant improvement over other dusts and baiting systems is the Fluorescent Termite Tracking™ (FTT) technology. Termites dusted with Termidor Dust will glow a bright yellow when exposed to a UV light such as a simple black light torch. This allows pest control operators the ability to track termites that have been dusted and helps in determining if termites found in close proximity to the treated structure are from the same colony as those previously dusted.
- **Unique Packaging** - Termidor Dust is packaged in unique containers that minimise the chance of accidental exposure to the PCO and your client. The containers are designed with a 14mm hole in the cap which has a rubber septum underneath. You simply insert the tip of the puffer to pierce the septum and down into the dust where you suck up as much dust as required by depressing and releasing the bulb. Upon removing the tip of the puffer, the septum will clean the shaft and completely self-seal the container. No spillage is possible, even if the container is dropped, eliminating staining to furnishings, mess and fuss.



## The Application

Termidor Dust is applied the same way as other termiticidal dusts and is registered for:

Where a termite nest is located, ie.

- Trees & stumps
- Power poles
- Timber bridges & wharfs
- Mounds
- Wall cavities

Where a termite nest is not located, ie.

- Termite activity in timber
- Bait stations
- Bait boxes
- Termite galleries in general

Dust as many termites as possible, minimising the amount of stress and disturbance to workers. Aim to apply a light covering of dust over termites.



Do not pile up dust in areas where termites are active. Treat continuous infestations at approximately one-metre intervals through small entry points using the fine tip of a sharp probe. Seal treatment holes with tape after application.

Concentrate treatment in infested timbers, avoiding damage to mud shelter tubes. If workings cannot be treated directly, then apply dust carefully into shelter tubes, making sure to avoid excessive damage.

Treatment of shelter tubes should be considered a last resort, since damage to the tubes may detrimentally affect the degree of colony control achieved. Monitor termite activity after treatment and re-apply if termite activity is evident 4 weeks after first treatment.

Eradication of one termite colony does not guarantee that a structure is protected from attack by other colonies in the area. Termite dusting is not designed and should not be used as a stand-alone treatment. Therefore a continuous chemical treatment such as Termidor Residual Termiticide should be applied immediately following successful eradication of termite activity in the structure.

## The Solution

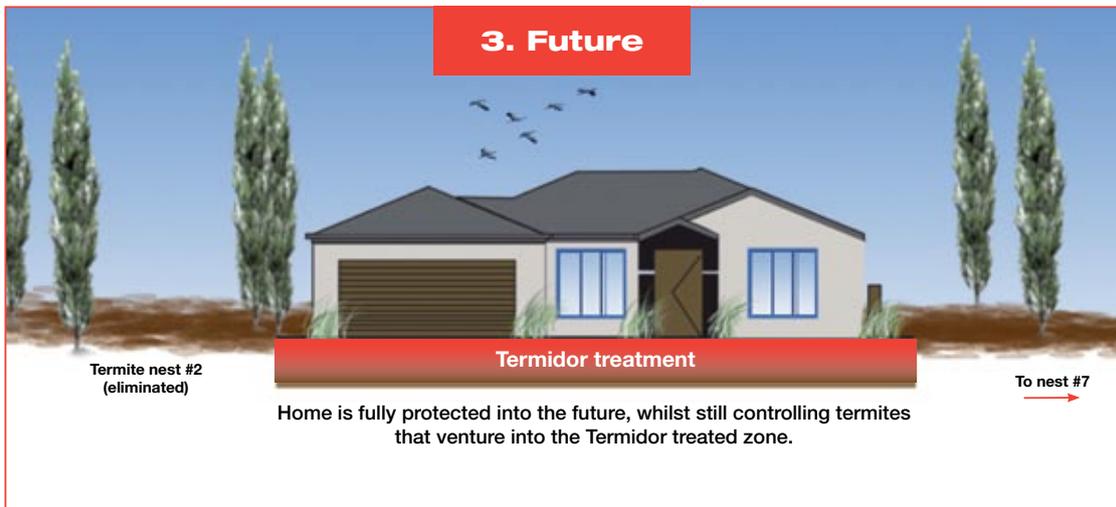
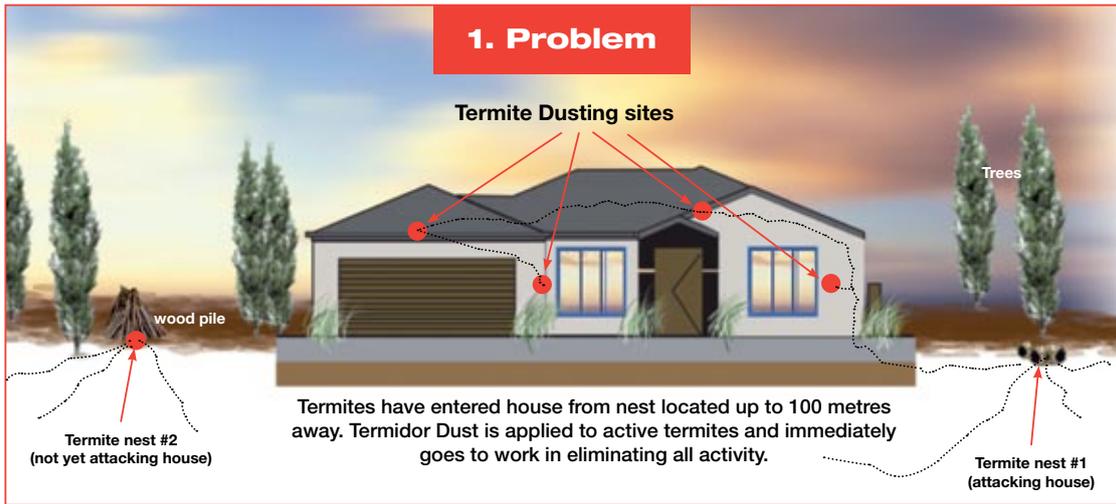
Termidor Dust delivers for your business what no other single product can. The solution to your termite control problems is here and can best summarised below:

- Faster control for better client relations
- Colony elimination, usually in 2-4 weeks
- Designed, researched, developed and made in Australia
- More profitable
- Transfer Effect™
- Non-repellent (ingestible)
- Equal control of all economically important species
- Contains unique Fluorescent Termite Tracking™ (FTT) technology
- Extremely low chemical dosage
- Unique packaging that is easy and safe to use
- Ideal partner for Termidor Residual Termiticide
- Backed by BASF, the world's largest chemical company

## THE TRANSFER EFFECT™

Termites are social insects, feeding and grooming each other in large, close-knit colonies – an ideal scenario for the “Transfer Effect” and a key reason why no other termiticide performs as well as Termidor Dust. Thanks to this “Transfer Effect”™ termites do not need to ingest, or be directly dusted in order to die. Dusted termites collect Termidor Dust on their bodies thus making each termite a “carrier” of the dust throughout the entire colony.





[www.termidor.com.au](http://www.termidor.com.au)

**TERMIDOR HOTLINE**  
Free call 1800 006 393

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