

FACT SHEET



Drexel

Master Fume Gas Fumigant

This fact sheet for Master Fume (Sulfuryl fluoride fumigant) is intended to provide basic information about this product and how it is used. If you have specific questions about your fumigation, refer to documents provided by the fumigator or call the fumigator listed on the warning signs posted on your structure. If you have questions about Master Fume gas fumigant (the fumigant used) or the procedures described, call Drexel Chemical Company at (901)774-4370 or e-mail info@drexchem.com, attention Ben Johnson, Product Manager, or Robert Fields, Program Manager.

WHY FUMIGATE

Houses, apartments, and other dwellings or structures can be seriously damaged by insect pests that feed or tunnel into the wood. More than 5 million homes each year are damaged by termites or other wood destroying insects. Depending on the extent or location of the infestation, fumigation is the only total control method proven to eliminate certain infestations of wood destroying insects.

HOW TO FUMIGATE

Because Master Fume is a gas, the structure to be fumigated is completely sealed prior to fumigation to contain the gas so it can penetrate wood thoroughly and eliminate the pests. Depending on the construction of the building, doors and windows may be sealed with tape and a plastic sheet. Alternatively, the structure may be covered with a tarp. The building will remain sealed for 2 to 72 hours depending on the specifics of the job. Warning signs are posted around the building to notify people to keep out.

After the tarp or tape is removed, a professional fumigator will aerate the structure by opening the doors and windows or by using fans to clear out the building. Once the dwelling has been thoroughly aerated, the fumigator is required to measure the level of any fumigant remaining in the living space to make sure that it is below the concentration approved by EPA for reentry by occupants.

Extremely low levels of fumigant can remain for a short period of time in dead air spaces between walls and inside cabinets as well as porous materials, such as furniture, which will continue to dissipate for a few hours after the fumigation at levels well below the established safe reentry concentration. Your building should not be cleared for reoccupancy until it is safe to enter. The fumigator will post a notice on your building indicating the day and time for reentry. Structures can be occupied only when the EPA approved concentration is 1 part per million (ppm) or below. Aeration is rapid since Master Fume is a true gas. Recent studies have shown that in most structures, levels are less than 1 ppm within 6 hours of clearing and have no detectable levels of sulfuryl fluoride gas fumigant within 24 hours after the start of aeration.

Sulfuryl fluoride is a colorless, odorless gas, so a warning agent like Chloropicrin is added to cause watery eyes and a scratchy throat. If you experience these symptoms in a structure that has been recently fumigated, you should leave immediately and call the pest control company to have your building retested.

SULFURYL FLUORIDE (POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS FROM OVEREXPOSURE)

Sulfuryl fluoride is a gas and can potentially enter your body only through inhalation. It does not stay on dry surfaces, thus, there is no exposure from touching treated surfaces.

Nervous system and respiratory irritation: Overexposure to high levels of sulfuryl fluoride can result in nose and throat irritation and nausea. At high concentrations (such as those used during the fumigation) it can cause excess fluid in the lungs, sleepiness, pneumonia, and convulsions. These symptoms would be expected to appear within 8 hours after such an exposure. In the unlikely event you experience these symptoms in the building that has been recently fumigated, you should leave immediately. Consult your physician and call the pest control company to have your building retested.

Additional studies: Sulfuryl fluoride has not been shown to cause birth defects in pregnant animals exposed under experimental conditions. In addition, current studies have demonstrated there are no mutagenic or genotoxic effects caused by exposure to sulfuryl fluoride.

Safety Precautions and Homeowner Preparation

- Discuss the treatment program in advance with your pest control company so you fully understand what will be done and what you need to do.
- Carefully follow the instructions you are given about what items you are to remove from your building.
- Stay out of the treated building until it is cleared for reentry.
- If you are interested or concerned, you should ask your pest control company to show the records of how your building was aerated before it was cleared to reentry.
- You may wish to increase ventilation by opening doors and windows.

If you have specific questions about your fumigation, refer to documents provided by the fumigator or call the fumigator listed on the warning signs posted on your structure. Call Drexel Chemical Company at (901)774-4370 if you need additional information or have questions concerning the product.



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