

FUMIGATION FACTS



FUMIGATION PLANNING GUIDE

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ProFume[®]

FUMIGANT

In addition to the work performed by your fumigator, you will need to help prepare your home for the fumigation.

This timeline is to be used as a guideline and may vary based on your location and pest management service. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to have all tasks on this checklist done before the crew arrives. Failure to do so may postpone the fumigation. Confirm necessary activities and timing with your pest management professional.

▶ As soon as possible

- Make accommodation arrangements for family and pets.
- Block areas where pets might hide in/under structures.
- Make arrangements for cars and vehicles that may need to be parked away from the structure.
- Make security arrangements if needed.*
- Hold your mail service if needed.

*If not already arranged by your pest management professional.

▶ Two to three days before

- Remove or double-bag unsealed food and medicines.** See the “Food & Consumables Checklist” on Page 4 for helpful information.
- Make house key arrangements with your pest management professional.
- Move indoor and outdoor potted plants away from your home.
- Prune any plants or trees touching/encroaching the outside of your home.
- Water the soil up to 45 centimeters from the outer walls of your home.
- Retract all awnings.
- Return all signed contracts to your fumigation and/or termite company.

**Special bags are used and are available from your pest management professional. See “How to Use Nylofume Bags” on Page 6 for instructions.



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▶ One day before

- Water the soil next to the foundation.
- Open waterproof covers on mattresses and pillows if they do not have built-in air vents.[†]
- Take pets to boarding or other location.
- Notify neighbors to make them aware of your upcoming fumigation treatment.
- To allow access for tarping, move cars and vehicles not being used the day of fumigation several meters away from the structure. Cars and vehicles may be left inside your garage but must be fully accessible (doors and trunk left unlocked).

[†]If waterproof covers have built-in air vents, they do not need to be opened.

▶ The day of fumigation

- Provide house keys to your pest management professional if needed, as well as the best way to contact you during the fumigation.
- Evacuate all people, pets and plants from the structure.
- Turn off automatic timers, sprinkler systems, air conditioning, etc.
- Open all cabinets, drawers, closets and interior doors.
- Turn off electrical heating elements such as those in heaters, computers, pianos, organs, pet habitats, etc.
- Extinguish all pilot lights (hot water heaters, ranges, ovens, dryers, etc.).

▶ After the fumigation

- Follow regulations and don't re-enter your home until it has been tested and certified for re-entry by a licensed fumigator.
- Turn back on any devices and timers.
- It is not necessary to wash dishes, linens, clothing, etc., as the fumigant is a gas that will dissipate from the structure and its contents.
- Enjoy the peace of mind that the wood infesting beetles and drywood termites are gone.



Before your home is treated with a fumigant, all consumable items in unsealed containers (such as food, medicine, pet food, beverages and candy) need to be protected in special bags or removed from the structure. Check with your pest management professional to find out which method is recommended for you.

► **YES, bag or remove these items:**



Medicine, tobacco, vitamins and other ingestible pills, supplements and lozenges if not sealed in glass, plastic or metal jars or cans with the original manufacturer's seal intact



Chips, pasta, bread, cereals, rice, cookies, crackers and any other items packaged in plastic, paper or cardboard bags or boxes, even if they have never been opened



Pet food and animal feed in bags and boxes



Beverages, snacks, sauces, drugs, medicines or other items in metallic foil-lined containers such as pouches, boxes or blister packs



Any food, feed, drugs and medicines if not sealed in glass, plastic or metal bottles, jars or cans with the original manufacturer's airtight seal intact



Anything in resealable containers, including plastic containers, such as milk, butter, sour cream and cottage cheese



Eggs, fruits, vegetables and any other forms of produce



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FOOD & CONSUMABLES CHECKLIST

Examples to guide you as you prepare for fumigation:

▶ **NO need to bag or remove these items:**

- Any food, feed, drugs, tobacco products and medicines if sealed in glass, plastic or metal bottles, jars or cans with the original manufacturer's airtight seal intact (examples: unopened 2-liter soda/pop, liquor, beer or wine bottles)
- Dental hygiene products (including toothpaste, mouthwash, dental adhesives and whitening products)^{††}
- Shampoo and soaps^{††}
- Cosmetics, including lipstick^{††}
- All externally applied lotions and ointments^{††}
- Water and ice cubes^{††}

^{††}Includes opened containers

▶ **What you'll need if you're bagging items so they can stay in the home:**

- You will use Nylofume bags, which are specially designed to protect your unsealed food and medicines. They are available from your pest management professional. See page 6.



▶ **Make sure to check:**

- Cupboards
- Refrigerator(s)
- Freezer(s)
- Kitchen or dresser drawers where food or medications may be stored
- Nightstands
- Children's rooms
- Office desk drawers
- Medicine cabinet(s)
- Liquor cabinet(s)
- Pantries or bulk food storage areas in the garage or basement

It is the responsibility of the homeowner to have all items on this checklist done before the crew arrives. Failure to do so may postpone the fumigation. Confirm necessary activities and timing with your pest management professional.

▶ **Don't forget about these items:**

- Any food, feed, drugs, tobacco products and medicinals NOT sealed in glass, plastic or metal bottles, jars or cans with the original manufacturer's airtight seal intact.
- Spices without their original manufacturer's airtight seal intact.



All items such as food, feed, drugs (including tobacco) and medicines not adequately packaged (including those items in refrigerators and freezers) must either be removed from the structure being fumigated or sealed in protective Nylofume bags. The Nylofume bags should be “doubled-up” before you fill them with items that need protection.

▶ Helpful tips

- Try not to purchase extra food from the grocery store. The more food you have, the more you will need to bag or remove.
- Cold and frozen foods in Nylofume bags can be left in the refrigerator and freezer. Remove shelves from the refrigerator and freezer to make it easier to stack bags inside.

▶ Please follow these instructions carefully



1

While bags are still empty, place one inside another. Double-bagging helps ensure effective protection.



2

Place items inside the inner bag. Do NOT overfill — leave clearance on top for adequate closure of the bags.

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HOW TO
USE NYLOFUME
BAGS



3

Twist the top of the inner bag.



4

Fold once and secure the fold in place by using tape or a twist tie.



5

Repeat Steps 3 and 4 with the outer bag.



6

Check the seal by pressing gently against the sides of the bag and listening for air leaks. No air should be able to escape.

Every home is different. Below are items that may need special attention. As always, check first with your pest management professional for confirmation and more information.

▶ Fish tank

Be sure to check with your pest management professional on how to prepare fish tank for fumigation.

▶ Awnings

Retract all awnings to protect them from the weight of the tarps used for tenting the home.

▶ Blinds and drapes

Your windows may be opened to allow the fumigant gas to move freely. Raising blinds and opening drapes helps the process go more quickly.

▶ Burglar alarms

If any burglar alarms are to be left on, leave operational instructions and your contact information with your pest management professional.



▶ Connected structures

Construction elements connecting buildings, such as conduits and drainage systems, may allow the passage of fumigant from the structure being fumigated to an adjacent structure. Identifying all possible connections between structures is an essential aspect of a fumigation treatment. Let your pest management professional know if you have:

- Central vacuum lines
- Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or metal pipes that house electrical, telephone or cable lines above or below ground
- French drains, gutter systems and landscape drains
- Hollow block fences (may be covered with stucco), archways or breezeways

▶ Exterior doors without locks

All exterior doors to the building being fumigated (including the water heater cabinet) must be secured against unauthorized entry.

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ADDITIONAL
DETAILS
EVERY HOME IS UNIQUE

▶ Keys for exterior door locks

- The label requires all exterior doors, including garage doors, be locked and secured during fumigation. Fumigators use additional locking devices, called secondary locks, on exterior doors that cannot be secured by other means.
- Because fumigators need access to the inside of your home to provide fumigation services, **you are required** to provide keys to the pest management professional for all exterior locked doors, including outdoor sheds within the fumigated space.
- Keyless entryway locks can be temporarily recoded for the fumigation to meet security requirements.

▶ Outdoor gas grills

Turn off gas at the tank valve for outdoor grills that will be in the fumigated space (covered by tarps).

▶ Roof-mounted structures

To be effective, tarps used for fumigation are heavy. During tenting, roof-mounted items (such as antenna guide wires, satellite dishes, security cameras, weather vanes, etc.) risk being damaged. These items may need to be removed, so check with your pest management professional before the fumigation.



▶ Swimming pools

The gate to a pool area may need to be left open. If you wish to have the property guarded, check with your fumigator for more information.

▶ Tree limbs over roof

Tree limbs growing over the roof should be trimmed to allow room for workers to cover the roof with the tarp.

▶ Valuables

Most fumigation companies are not responsible for security against vandalism, theft or breaking and entering before or during the fumigation and aeration procedure or after the property is released for re-entry. It is recommended you remove any highly valuable items from the premises prior to the fumigation.

▶ Walk-in safes/security areas

All areas within the structure must be made accessible, including closets, garages and safes. If you have a walk-in or large safe, you may need to be present to open the safe for the fumigator's inspection before fumigation and after aeration.

▶ Waterbed mattresses

No special preparation is needed for waterbed mattresses, and they can be left in the house as is.

▶ Weather

Fumigation cannot be performed if there is severe weather that would affect fumigation worker safety and the successful completion of the fumigation. In these situations, the fumigation would need to be rescheduled.

▶ **When can I re-enter my home?**

The fumigated structures must not be re-entered until they have been tested and certified for re-entry by a licensed fumigator. Specialized equipment is used to test the air to ensure the fumigant has dissipated. The fumigator will then issue the customer a certificate of clearance.

▶ **Should I shut off my electricity or water service?**

No. Electricity and water must be available as it will be necessary to run fans during the fumigation process. Gas service, however, will need to be shut off prior to fumigation.

▶ **Why does my fumigator need a key to my house and garage?**

The fumigator must have access to all rooms and compartments inside of the structure to perform fumigation services.

▶ **Why do you recommend watering the soil around my home?**

Thoroughly watering the soil up to 45 centimeters from the outer walls of your home and the ground around shrubs and plants located adjacent to the structure can help protect them during the tenting process. Watering should be done the day before fumigation.

▶ **Does a fumigation treatment leave any surface residues?**

The gas used to fumigate your home does not remain in the home after fumigation. It completely dissipates.

▶ **Can the air conditioning be left running during fumigation?**

- Typically, air conditioning is not left on during the fumigation. If you have special circumstances, such as keeping a wine cellar cool, arrangements will need to be made with your pest management professional.
- Window air conditioning units should not be left on as they will be covered by the tarps and unable to function.

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

Your professional licensed fumigator will do the following:

- Secure doors on your home by using deadbolts or additional locking devices to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Open all cupboards, drawers, trunks and vaults to ensure the fumigant gas quickly dissipates from your home.
- Use specialized equipment to test the air to ensure the fumigant has dissipated so you may re-enter your home. The fumigant level must be below the Department of Agriculture requirement (3 ppm or less) in all breathing zones. Therefore, as soon as the fumigator clears the structure, you may return to your home.

▶ **Post-fumigation, my cupboards and drawers were left open. Why?**

All cupboards, drawers, trunks and vaults must be opened to ensure the fumigant gas quickly dissipates from your home during aeration.



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