



NISUS[®]

Better science for a better world.

BORA-CARE[®] Q&A

Q: What is Bora-Care?

A: Bora-Care is an EPA registered termiticide, insecticide and fungicide. It is a borate-based concentrate with polyglycol penetrants. When mixed with water and applied to cellulose material, Bora-Care will help protect the treated material from fungal decay, termites and other labeled wood destroying organisms, providing long-term residual protection. Bora-Care has an acute mammalian toxicity lower than table salt.

Q: What efficacy data is there to show Bora-Care works?

A: Bora-Care has been independently tested to AWPA standards and USDA field tests over many decades.

Q: Can Bora-Care be used as a soil termiticide?

A: No. Bora-Care is not a soil termiticide. It should be applied to wood and other cellulose or building materials in a structure. It can also be applied to concrete and other non-wood materials per label. It is the leading termite preventive product used on new construction in the USA and can be used in lieu of a soil termiticide.

Q: Does Bora-Care stop mold?

A: No, Bora-Care is not labeled for mold and is not effective at killing mold. Bora-Care with Mold-Care is the best product to use to kill and prevent mold.

Q: Is hot water needed when mixing with Bora-Care?

A: No. Either hot or cold water can be used depending on the circumstances. Bora-Care is thicker when cold, so keep the Bora-Care product warm rather than leaving it outside in winter before mixing. Hot water can be used to facilitate mixing when the Bora-Care is cold. Mix with water using a drill impeller until you feel no resistance – usually 2-3 minutes. Make sure there is none left in the mixing container when you transfer it to the sprayer.

Q: What is the best method to mix Bora-Care?

A: Use the appropriately sized mixing container for total volume of solution needed. Add the necessary water but leave some water for triple rinsing. Begin mixing with power drill and impeller as you add the Bora-Care. Use the remaining water to triple rinse the empty Bora-Care container, shake and pour rinsate into vessel and mix with solution.

Q: What is the shelf life of Bora-Care?

A: Nisus Corporation warrants product stability for one year. However, due to the inert properties of Bora-Care, as long as the material can be made into proper solution with water, it will retain efficacy and should apply appropriately.

Q: How do I warm Bora-Care in cold climates before a service?

A: Place Bora-Care in a secure holding container in the cab of the service vehicle. Due to the low toxicity and non-volatility of Bora-Care, it is OK to place in the cab.

Q: How should I store Bora-Care in cold climates?

A: Keeping Bora-Care in a climate-controlled space is best. Room temperature is optimum.

Q: How deeply does Bora-Care penetrate into the wood?

A: The rate depends on the wood species, time and moisture content of the wood. In hardwood species such as oak, Bora-Care will penetrate 1/4 inch or more initially. For softwoods such as pine, Bora-Care will adsorb more. Both will have deeper penetration over time and with higher moisture content, due to diffusion. A higher surfacing loading level (23% or 1:1) will also enhance penetration. Note, initial adsorption into heartwood is minimal.

Q: Must Bora-Care fully penetrate to stop subterranean termites?

A: No. The very high surface loading in a 1:1 dilution two-foot band is very effective by penetrating the termite mud tube. The polyglycols and high surface loading make this effective.

Q: Can Bora-Care be mixed with other pesticides?

A: Yes. Unless the other product label specifically states you cannot mix with other products, you may.

Q: Will Bora-Care hurt my plants or grass?

A: At high application rates, yes. Boron, which is in Bora-Care, is essential to plants but like other nutrients, too much can be phytotoxic, so you should cover any plants that might get overspray. If you do get Bora-Care on plants, rinse immediately with lots of water to dilute any potential effect.

Q: If I get Bora-Care overspray on windows, doors or other surfaces, how do I clean it?

A: Simply clean the area with warm water and soap. Doing it while it is still wet is much easier than doing it when dry.

Q: Does Bora-Care break down?

A: The active ingredient in Bora-Care is an inorganic mineral salt, Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate (DOT). DOT is an inert compound of the element boron. It does not volatilize nor degrade once applied and penetrated into the wood. Bora-Care remains in the wood for the life of the treated wood members in interior applications. For exterior wood that is not painted or sealed and is exposed to the weather, protection will gradually be lost over a few years .

Q: Can wood be wet when applying Bora-Care?

A: Yes. This will enhance the diffusion rate but may reduce initial adsorption. For exterior applications, do not apply when raining or just before heavy rain is expected.

Q: Can Bora-Care be used on the exterior?

A: Yes. Bora-Care is ideal for siding, log homes or decking, for example. (Bora-Care with Mold-Care is typically better for exterior applications and will last longer.) Note that protection will last longer if the wood remains painted or sealed. For decking, application every 5 to 7 years is recommended. For siding or logs protected by roof overhang, protection against decay can last many decades.

Q: Is Bora-Care compatible with other construction products?

A: Yes, Bora-Care has been tested for corrosion with many metals and compatibility with wood composites, PEX and PVC. Bora-Care is shown to be compatible with such materials.

Q: Can I stain wood after Bora-Care is applied?

A: Yes. Wait 48 hours after application and until dry to apply a stain or paint and follow the stain manufacture's recommendations regarding wood moisture content. Do not use PVA-based interior latex paints.

Q: Can Bora-Care be applied over stained/sealed wood?

A: Sometimes, but only if the stain or coating is older and has lost its water repellency. New topcoats will prevent proper adsorption and penetration. The wood must be sanded or power washed to remove stain/sealer first. You can test water repellency by spritzing with water – if it adsorbs, it is OK to treat; if it all beads and runs off, the stain or coating should be removed.

Q: Does Bora-Care work well against beetles?

A: Yes. Apply Bora-Care at a 1:1 volume ratio with water to the infested framing wood member or beams. For aesthetic applications, do not over-apply. For hardwood flooring use only a 1:5 dilution ratio. Too much product applied to heartwood will not dry or penetrate for a long time, leaving a sticky surface. See the label for flooring application rates.

Q: After I applied Bora-Care to a beetle infested piece of wood, I still see emergence. Why?

A: It is very difficult to prevent emerging adults that were in the pupal casing prior to application, so some emergence may occur after application. However, re-infestation will be prevented, and all eggs and larvae will be controlled.

Q: Can I use Bora-Care instead of pressure treated sill plate in new construction?

A: No. Building code requires pressure treated sill plate to meet AWPA standards to prevent fungal decay. Building code also requires a separate termiticide application to protect the house from subterranean termites and Bora-Care meets this requirement. Building code and AWPA also require cut or drilled pressure treated sill plate to be field-treated with preservative, and Bora-Care also meets this requirement. In some instances where a home is accidentally built without pressure treated sill plate, a code inspector may allow an application of Bora-Care to provide this protection, as it will deliver the necessary decay protection.

Q: After Bora-Care application I see heightened beetle feeding and activity. Why?

A: After application there is a change in the wood environment that could stimulate beetle larvae. Bora-Care will kill existing feeding larvae that consume the treated wood and having this increased activity after application is normal.

Q: How will I know the beetles in the wood are dead?

A: It is impossible to view beetles in the wood, of course. The beetle life cycle, depending on the species in question, can be from 1 to 25 years. If there are no signs of activity after six months to a year after application, then it's likely that activity has been fully controlled.

Q: Six months after applying Bora-Care I see emergence. Did the Bora-Care application work, and do I have to re-apply?

A: If applied correctly according to the label instructions, the Bora-Care application did work, and you don't have to re-apply. Regardless of whether some beetles have emerged, they will not re-infest. You have provided residual protection to the wood member that will help prevent future beetle attack and attack from other wood destroying organisms such as fungal decay. Note that many homeowners think old frass falling from old holes indicates the infestation is still active when it is not. Old frass in holes can be sealed with polyurethane or polyacrylate to prevent it from falling out if necessary.

Q: How can I tell if the beetle activity is old or new?

A: Use a felt marker and circle the exit holes when you inspect. Upon your next inspection, if there are holes *not* circled, then the activity is new. Painter's tape can also be used – beetles will drill through the tape, and you can see the holes.

Q: What is meant by the "dried-in stage"?

A: The "dried-in stage" is when wood in direct contact with foundations, interior and exterior wall sill plates, wood studs, wood or cellulosic sheathing, floor joists and sub-flooring is installed with the roof installed as well and protected from weather. This is when Bora-Care should be applied in new construction.

Q: Explain the Bora-Care 30-Year Warranty.

A: The Bora-Care 30-Year Warranty is for new construction single family homes in the U.S. and is available to any licensed PMP who has registered their company on our online Bora-Care Warranty platform. Technicians must pass our training program, the PMP must register new construction home treatments and annual inspections online, and they must abide by our agreement. The Warranty offers up to \$2,500 for damage reimbursement and free product for re-treatment.

Q: Can I add drywood termite or mold protection in new construction?

A: Yes. Whole house treatments are great for lifetime protection using Bora-Care at a 1:1 dilution ratio for the first two-feet of the structure and Bora-Care or Bora-Care with Mold-Care at a 1:5 dilution rate for all other structural framing and sheathing.



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