



Fumigation Planning Guide

courtesy of Thrasher Pest



This fumigation planning guide was written with our customers in mind. It provides almost every detail of the preparation process. Is it a lot? Yes, but when you work with us you will be assigned a fumigation coordinator who will help you ever step of the way. When it comes to protecting you and your home, we leave nothing to chance.

Our Benefits

Experienced team—with specialized training in pest id and control, termites, bed bugs, rodents, and mosquitoes

Creative leadership—flexible enough to fumigate a house or houseboat; competent enough to service a 500 door multi-unit or 10,000 sq ft commercial project.

Committed to safety and the environment—to protect you and your family

Transparent—our processes, records, and reports are available through a confidential login

Our Credentials

- General Pests and Wood Destroying Organisms (Branch II and III). Structural Pest Control Board License PR7462
- California General Contractor License
- Agricultural Applicator License
- State Department of Fish and Wildlife Trapper License
- QualityPro Accredited. Foundation of Pest Management Professionals
- California Termite Academy Trained
- NPMA Rodent Academy Trained

Our Promise

The most knowledgeable, professional, adaptable pest control company you will ever work with

In addition to the work performed by the fumigator that we assign to your account, you will need to help prepare your home for the fumigation. Your assigned fumigator may supply additional instructions. You can always call your Thrasher Pest Fumigation Coordinator for clarification.

As soon as possible

- Sign and return all contracts and fumigation documents to us.
- Make overnight accommodation arrangements for family and pets.
- Block areas where pets might hide in/under structures.
- Schedule Gas Restoration. Thrasher Pest will schedule the gas shutoff for the fumigation (electricity will remain on). It is your responsibility to schedule gas restoration. Call SDG&E 1 (800) 411-7343 to schedule gas restoration for the afternoon of the re-entry date. If this appointment is not made in advance, SDG&E may not be able to accommodate restoring the gas.
 - ▶ If your home is being fumigated on a Saturday, the gas will be shut off on Friday between Noon and 4pm. If your fumigation starts on a Thursday, your gas restoration will be an all-day appointment on Saturday and, yes, your tent will be down by 10am.
 - ▶ SDG&E requires 3 feet of level clearance around the gas meter to shut off the gas. Make sure plants, bushes, stored items etc. are AT LEAST 3 feet away from the gas meter so the technician can shut off the gas.
- Make arrangements for cars and vehicles that must be parked away from the structure.
- Make security arrangements if needed.
- Hold your mail and package delivery service if needed.

KEY DECISIONS



The law 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 for preparation, you are required to provide keys to the fumigation crew for all exterior locked doors, including outdoor sheds within the fumigated space.

Your Options

- Leave keys in hidden location outside home
- Leave keys in lockbox (you may borrow a lockbox from Thrasher)
- Temporarily recode keyless locks for the fumigation crew
- Hand keys to fumigation crew. (You will be required to remain at the house during the entire 3-hour arrival window. Unfortunately, we cannot call you when the team is on the way.)

Two to three days before fumigation

- Remove or double-bag unsealed food and medicines* in the provided Nylofume® bags. Consumables not bagged in Nylofume bags prior to fumigation must be removed from the premises by you. **See "Food & Consumables Checklist."**
- Inform fumigation coordinator of your arrangement for keys (provide lockbox code)
- Provide your fumigation coordinator the best way to contact you during fumigation. Emergency or additional contacts are recommended.
- Move indoor and outdoor potted plants away from your home.
- Cut back foliage, shrubs, and trees at least 18 inches from the outer walls of the structure to allow room for the tarps.
- Retract all awnings.

*Thrasher Pest will provide you with 10 sets of bags. Additional bags are available at \$2 a set. See the section "How to Use Nylofume Bags" for instructions.

One day before fumigation

- You will receive a call any time after 2 pm the day prior to the fumigation with a 3-hour fumigation work crew arrival window. No specific arrival window can be requested. Arrival windows are between 7am and 6pm
 - ▶ Rescheduling or cancelling the fumigation less than 7 days prior to the fumigation may result in a \$250 cancellation fee.
- Water the soil next to and 18 inches from the foundation.
- 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 ten or more feet away from the structure. Cars and vehicles left inside your garage must be fully accessible with windows cracked open and doors, glove box, and trunk left unlocked.

The day of fumigation

- Provide house keys to the fumigation team or place them in the lockbox.
- Evacuate all people, pets, and plants from the structure (including plants on patios).
- Remove crib mattresses from the structure. Remove any other mattresses that are completely enveloped in plastic or remove the plastic covers. (If waterproof covers have built-in air vents, they do not need to be opened.)
- Ensure there are no obstructions preventing the utility company from shutting off the gas. No locked gates or dogs. No foliage or storage within 3 feet of the gas meter.
- Turn off automatic timers, sprinkler systems, air conditioning, etc.
- Turn off electrical heating elements such as those in heaters, computers, pianos, organs, pet habitats, etc.
- Open all cabinets, drawers, closets, and interior doors.

Be aware that fumigations cannot be performed in strong winds and/or rain. They will need to be rescheduled.



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 fumigation coordinator.

During fumigation

The day before the tent is removed we will be back to the property sometime between noon and 10 pm to initiate aeration. The technician will arrive in a marked vehicle and will present identification if asked.

After fumigation

- Follow State regulations and do not re-enter your home until it has been tested and certified for re-entry by the licensed fumigator.
- Meet with the gas company to restore service. Make sure to leave the clearance notices on the gas meter and front door in place: the gas company must see them to turn the gas back on.
- Turn back on any devices and timers.
- It is unnecessary to wash dishes, linens, clothing, etc., as the fumigant is a gas that will dissipate. It does not leave a residue.
- Drawers and cabinets will be left open for the aeration process. You may now close them.
- Be aware of the following:
 - ▶ Fumigation is targeted at drywood termites. It does not kill spiders. It does not kill the eggs of other insects. You will see other insects inside your home.
 - ▶ Fumigation will kill any mice, rats, or other mammals in the structure. This is not good. If you suspect a rodent/wildlife infestation it is critical that it is dealt with before fumigation.
 - ▶ Fumigation will leave behind the remains of dead termites. This will cause no smell and is no hazard to human health; however, occasionally ants will enter a home to feast on the dead termites. If this occurs your options are to wait it out or to request an ant treatment. Ask your fumigation coordinator for an estimate. (Yes, you may order an ant treatment in advance as a precaution.)
 - ▶ Fumigation provides no lasting protection from drywood termites. Fumigation leaves no residue; this is why you do not have to wash everything in your house after fumigation. Your fumigation is backed by a 2-year warranty. Thrasher Pest offers an extended warranty. More information will be provided to you. Please consider protecting the investment you are making in a termite-free home.

Before your home is treated with a fumigant, all consumable items in unsealed containers (such as food, medicine, pet food, beverages, and candy) must be protected in special bags or removed from the structure.

Bag or Remove These Items

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



Pet food and animal feed in bags and boxes



Any food, spice, feed, drug or medicine if not sealed in glass, plastic or metal bottles, jars or cans with the **original manufacturer's airtight 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



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



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



Eggs, fruits, vegetables, and any other forms of produce



Previously opened wine and liquor bottles



Make sure to check these locations:

- 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

Remember to bag or remove these items:

- Any food, spice, feed, drug, tobacco product or medicinal **NOT** sealed in glass, hard plastic or metal bottles, jars or cans **and with the original manufacturer's airtight seal intact.**

NO need to bag or remove these items:

- ▶ Any food, feed, drug, tobacco product and medicine sealed in glass, hard plastic or metal bottles, jars or cans **and with the original manufacturer's airtight seal intact** (Examples: unopened 2-liter soda/pop, liquor, or beer bottles).
- ▶ Place unopened wine bottles on the side so that the wine touches the cork.

Opened or Unopened, these items do not need to be bagged or removed:

- ▶ 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

Supplies you will need:

If you are 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. (Garbage bags ARE NOT a safe substitute.)

If you are removing items from the home, the following might be helpful:

- ▶ Plastic containers with lids to store food
- ▶ Plastic bins or totes for nonperishables

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.
- ▶ Do not use Nylofume bags to store clothing, toys, or other nonedible items prior to fumigation. The fumigant completely aerates from these items, so it is unnecessary to place them in bags.
- ▶ Plastic garbage bags are not a substitute for Nylofume bags and will not protect your items!

IMPORTANT: Keep Nylofume and other such bags out of the reach of children. If you have any questions, make sure to contact your fumigation coordinator.

Scan for more What to Bag info



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.

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.



3

IMPORTANT: Twist the top of the bag, then fold once to make a loop.



4

IMPORTANT: Tightly 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.



ALL CONSUMABLES MUST BE BAGGED OR REMOVED BEFORE THE FUMIGATION CREW ARRIVES!

State Regulations require that all food and consumables **MUST** be bagged or disposed of. Our staff is not allowed to throw out food for you. You must bag it or remove it yourself before the fumigation crew arrives.

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

ADDITIONAL
DETAILS

Aquariums

Remove all animals and fish. Water and filtration systems can remain in place. Ask for additional instructions if this applies to you.

Awnings

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

Blinds and drapes

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

Burglar alarms

If any burglar alarms are to be left on, communicate this in advance with your fumigation coordinator. There are some alarms that cannot be left on.

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 fumigation coordinator 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

Crib mattresses

Crib mattresses must be removed from the structure. They are often coated in waterproof material that may inhibit the gas fumigant from dissipating. We won't take a risk with the health of children. ALL crib mattresses must be removed during fumigation.

Exterior doors without locks

All exterior doors to the building being fumigated (including the water heater cabinet) must be secured against unauthorized entry. If no clasp or other locking device exists, the law may require nailing or other methods to secure these doors.

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, chimney caps, spark arrestors, weathervanes, etc.) risk being damaged. These items may need to be removed, so check with your fumigation coordinator 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

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. In some states, such as California and Florida, a notice will be posted on the door when the building is certified for re-entry.

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. In some areas, three to five days' notice may be required to schedule this appointment, so call SDG&E as soon as you know your re-entry date.

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 18 inches 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 fumigation coordinator.
- ▶ 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 four things:

1. Release a warning agent to deter entry to the home.
2. Secure doors on your home by using deadbolts or additional locking devices to prevent unauthorized entry.
3. Open all cupboards, drawers, trunks and vaults to ensure the fumigant gas quickly dissipates from your home.
4. 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirement (1 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.

Why are there ants and other insects in my house after fumigation?

- ▶ Fumigation is targeted at drywood termites. It does not kill spiders. It does not kill the eggs of other insects. You will see other insects inside your home.
- ▶ Fumigation will leave behind the remains of dead termites. This will cause no smell and is no hazard to human health; however, occasionally ants will enter a home to feast on the dead termites. If this occurs your options are to wait it out or to request an ant treatment. The cost of fumigation-related ant treatment is discounted. Speak with your fumigation coordinator. (Yes, you may order a preventive ant treatment.)



VIKANE®

Fact Sheet For Vikane® Gas Fumigant (Sulfuryl Fluoride)

Vikane® Gas Fumigant

In the interest of Douglas Products' commitment to product stewardship, this fact sheet is intended to provide basic information about the 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 Vikane gas fumigant (the fumigant used) or the procedures described, call the Douglas Products Customer Information Center at 844-8VIKANE (844-884-5263).

Why Buildings Are Fumigated

Insects that feed or tunnel into wood can seriously damage houses, apartments, and other dwellings or structures. Each year termites or other wood destroying insects damage more than 5 million homes. Other pests, such as bed bugs, may be dispersed throughout rooms and can be difficult to locate and control quickly and completely. 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, bed bugs, and other structure-infesting pests.

How Buildings Are Fumigated

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

After the fumigation period is completed, a professional fumigator will aerate the structure using fans for a prescribed aeration period. Once the dwelling has been thoroughly aerated, the fumigator is required to measure the level of any fumigant remaining in the living space to ensure it is below the EPA approved concentration for reentry by the 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. The small amount of fumigant in these areas will continue to dissipate for a few hours after the fumigation but at levels well below the established safe reentry concentration. Your building will 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 concentration is 1 part per million or less (this represents a margin of safety – laboratory animals have been exposed to 100 parts per million for 2 weeks with no adverse effects). Because Vikane is a true gas and not a vapor, aeration is rapid. Recent studies demonstrated that in most structures levels are less than 1 part per million after the prescribed aeration period and have no detectable levels of Vikane within 24 hours after the start of aeration.

Sulfuryl fluoride is a colorless, odorless gas, so a warning agent is added to the building that causes 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 that can potentially enter your body only through inhalation. Because it is a gas, it does not stay on dry surfaces; therefore, there is no exposure from touching treated surfaces.

Vikane[®] Gas Fumigant

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 not mutagenic or genotoxic effects caused by exposure to sulfuryl fluoride.

Questions

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 the Douglas Products Customer Information Center at 844-8VIKANE (844-884-5263) if you need additional information or have questions concerning this product.

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 by your pest control company 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 for reentry.
- You may wish to increase ventilation by opening doors and windows.

TermiteTenting.com



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