Termidor®
Termiticide/Insecticide

BASF
We create chemistry

Questions & Answers

Foul Odor Formation in Termiticide Mix Tank

Warm weather can sometimes precipitate a foul odor in termiticide mix tanks. To eliminate the odor-producing bacteria that cause this problem, good tank hygiene is essential. Review this product bulletin for useful information on how to prevent and eliminate odor in mix tanks, including Termidor®-based rigs/tanks.

Q According to my Termidor termiticide use label, I'm using an advanced, no-odor formulation. How are these formulations different from the older termiticides?

A **Termidor** termiticide formulations do not contain the strong organic solvents that have been shown to readily penetrate tanks, hoses, plastics and human skin. Instead, environmentally friendly suspension concentrates, water-dispersible liquids and granules are being used because they're less intrusive to termiticide tanks and associated parts, external housing structures, and areas where the mixture may be accidentally spilled or sprayed.

Q It's great that the concentrate doesn't have an odor, but occasionally during periods of warm weather the diluted termiticide in my tank seems to develop a foul "rotten egg" odor. Why?

A There are no offensive solvents used in **Termidor** termiticide formulations. Pure water is used to make the water-dispersible formulations, which can result in faster bacterial growth. To prevent this, a bactericide has been included in the formulation. However, after the concentrated termiticide is diluted with water, there may not be enough bactericide available to eliminate all bacteria, especially the sulfur-reducing bacteria known to produce a sulfur or "rotten egg" odor. These sulfur-reducing bacteria exist in water throughout the U.S., and especially in non-chlorinated well waters. They tend to grow more rapidly under extremely warm, stagnant conditions. Therefore, if a diluted partial tank of termiticide and water is allowed to set for a prolonged period of time under warm conditions, these bacteria may proliferate and produce that foul odor. This can occur with any termiticide. The foul odor is a water quality issue and does not impact the efficacy of **Termidor** termiticide.

Q What is good tank hygiene?

A Bacteria present in many well waters can feed on the residues of water-dispersible termiticides and produce extremely low levels of a gas known as hydrogen sulfide, characteristic of rotten eggs. Fortunately, the bacteria that produce this odor can readily be eliminated by following some simple guidelines for good tank hygiene:

- Apply any remaining **Termidor** termiticide to an outdoor site to the point where there is only a gallon or two left
- Add 1-2 quarts of hydrogen peroxide to the tank
- Agitate and run through hose back into tank
- Remix the Termidor material and apply as normal. The hydrogen peroxide is a bactericide, yet will not harm **Termidor** termiticide.

Good tank hygiene is central to eliminating the odor-producing bacteria. Following these guidelines on a regular basis, especially during warm summer months, should keep your termiticide tank clean and fresh smelling for years.

Q I often don't have time to decontaminate my tank of these sulfur-reducing bacteria. What can I do to eliminate the odor that's already formed?

A Prevention is almost always easier than the cure. However, there are a few things you can do to help eliminate the odor that may have formed inside a tank:

- Adding masking agents such as Termiticide Odor Counteractant (T.O.C.) will not totally eliminate the odor but will mask it with perfumes and deodorants that tend to greatly reduce odor problems.
- **Nutra-Sol** tank cleaner from BASF is highly effective in removing residues and other contaminants from spray equipment, and can be used to clean the tank and eliminate the odor. Visit http://betterturf.basf.us for more information.
- Adding hydrogen peroxide to the tank will kill the sulfur-reducing bacteria that produce the foul odor. This is allowable for short-term storage (3 days). However, this approach may kill the bacteria that form the foul odor but may not eliminate the odor presently inside the tank. It is strongly recommended that once the tank is emptied it should be thoroughly cleaned by adding fresh water and hydrogen peroxide.
- T.O.C. agents or ferrous sulfate may be required to eliminate the current odor. Ferrous sulfate may be purchased at many local agricultural or PCO distributors and is relatively inexpensive. A small amount (1/2 pound per tank) should be plenty to remove the odor.
- Final reminder: Occasional cleaning of the tank (especially during hot summer months) and not allowing stagnant water to sit for prolonged periods of time will eliminate the opportunity for the bacteria to proliferate and produce the sulfur odor.

If you have further questions, please contact your BASF sales or technical representatives or visit pestcontrol.basf.us

Always read and follow label directions.