



**Premise®**

**Protect your most valuable assets**



Bayer Environmental Science  
A Business Operation of Bayer CropScience

# Why termites pose such a threat

Surveys have established that almost 40% of our homes in Australia are attacked by termites at some stage. Other studies have shown that the risk of a house becoming infested by termites is five times greater than that of fire.

Generally speaking termite damage is not covered by standard household insurance.

While most local government authorities now require termite barriers to be incorporated into the construction of all new buildings, most existing houses are still vulnerable to termite infestation.



## Understanding termites

Termites play a vital role in nature by recycling dead and decaying wood. Unfortunately, they can't tell the difference between dead trees and the structural timbers in your home.

Worker termites tunnel 50 metres or more from the nest in search of food. If they come across your home's foundations while they are foraging, they'll follow any cracks or crevices to gain access to a food source such as floorboards or any other susceptible timber. They may even enter through wood in direct contact with soil or build mud tunnels from the ground to the lowest accessible timber. From there they can access the rest of your house, including the structural timbers in the walls and the roof. For an extreme example of the mud-building technique, just think of the huge termite mounds in the Northern Territory.

You are unlikely to ever see a termite, only the signs of their presence. Their mud tunnels are the most obvious, but in spring and summer you may also come across the piles of wings left behind by swarming termites as your local nests send out prospective new kings and queens to start new colonies.

### **There are some simple steps you can take to make termite infestation less likely:**

- Do not build up soil or garden beds against the house.
- Do not install watering systems around the perimeter of your house.
- Do not stack timber or firewood against the house.
- Do not store wooden materials under the house.
- Fix leaking downpipes and gutters and hot water systems to retain good drainage all around the house.

# What options are available?

## 1. Dusts

Dusts are generally applied directly to termite activity and are intended as a curative treatment to eliminate the activity which is present at the time. Application of a dust provides no long term protection of the structure which has been treated and therefore must be used in conjunction with another termite management system which does provide protection of the structure.

## 2. Soil applied termiticides

One of the most common methods for the long term protection of homes against termite damage is the application of a termiticide to the soil to form a barrier which stops termites entering the building. When applied properly by a Professional Pest Manager these are effective means to provide ongoing protection of the property. They are a very cost effective method to achieve long term protection of the building from one single application.

There are two groups of soil applied termiticides; the older products (which include compounds such as chlorpyrifos and bifenthrin) are known as repellent termiticides which, when applied to the soil, create a repellent barrier to termite entry. One weakness of this group is that termites are able to detect these residues in the soil and by avoiding them, over time, find any gaps to subsequently enter the home or structure.

The second group of soil applied termiticides includes two non-repellent compounds; imidacloprid (Premise) and fipronil. Termites are not able to detect residues of these compounds in the soil and are therefore killed before they are able to find any gaps in the barrier. A secondary benefit of these compounds is that termites are able to pass on the chemical to other individuals in the colony (nest) which over time can result in colony elimination.

## 3. Baiting systems

Baiting systems are often sold as an alternative to a liquid soil-applied treatment. They work on the principle of termites being attracted, in sufficient numbers, to a point; an aggregation device, baiting station or monitoring station (containing pieces of timber) where a toxicant bait can then be applied. Over time the termites consume the bait and the toxicant is transferred to the colony (similar to a non-repellent termiticide) resulting (usually) in death of the nest.

Unlike a chemical soil barrier which is a continuous protective zone, these monitoring devices are usually placed around the perimeter of a home at intervals of a few metres apart in the hope that termites will find them. There is usually a lag time between when the stations are installed until the time when termites find them and a further lag time involved in order for enough termites to be available to use the toxic bait. Therefore in order to be effective multiple visits from the Professional Pest Manager are essential in order to replenish the bait timbers and/or the bait toxicant.

There is some scientific debate at the moment as to whether or not these devices are considered to provide effective long term protection of the building.

## 4. Foams

In some situations it may be difficult to reach inaccessible areas with standard liquid treatments and the addition of a foaming agent to a non-repellent or repellent liquid termiticide will assist in getting the product into these areas. Unlike the application of a dust, a foam application is intended to provide a longer term protective effect. The use of non-repellent foam such as Premise may also be used to quickly eliminate termite activity to rapidly stop further damage prior to a full treatment.

# Why choose Premise

Premise has been developed by Bayer, one of the leading Life Science companies in the world. With this comes the confidence of thorough research and development and the re-assurance of knowing the product comes from an ethical company with a strong commitment to sustainability.

## Safe for you and the environment

We all want to protect our homes against termites but we also want to be confident that it is done effectively, safely and that, in the unlikely event that something goes wrong, there is some solid backing behind the product that has been used.

Premise is based on a compound that Bayer sells for flea control on domestic animals, so although it is highly effective against termites it presents a very low risk to people, pets and wildlife.

As part of the rigorous development programme, studies showed that use of Premise produced no airborne residues after a standard internal treatment, so it is possible to remain in your house while this is occurring (unlike some other termiticides).

## Premise plus Nature

At low doses Premise changes the behaviour of termites so that they stop defending themselves against fungal attack. Within days the termites are overwhelmed by naturally occurring fungi.

## Why is Premise so effective?

A Premise treatment effectively creates an extremely efficient in-ground trap that termites can't detect (the Premise Treated Zone).

## Termites forage into the Premise Treated Zone and are killed in one of three ways:

1. Termites that ingest or contact enough Premise are killed outright
2. Those that only receive a low dose of Premise become dysfunctional. They stop normal feeding and grooming of each other (which is an essential component of termite colony health) and become diseased and die (known as 'Premise plus Nature').
3. Many Premise-affected termites do find their way back to the colony. Other termites then receive a lethal dose through normal social interaction or cannibalism.

## Long lasting protection of your home

Since the launch of Premise by Bayer, over 1 million homes have been successfully treated around the world (including well over 200,000 homes in Australia). Professional Pest Managers using Premise have found call-backs to be almost non-existent and there has not been a single case of product failure.

Premise can provide protection against termite damage for five years. This is backed up by local research carried out in conjunction with CSIRO.

## How Premise, a proven, non-repellent termite treatment, protects your home.



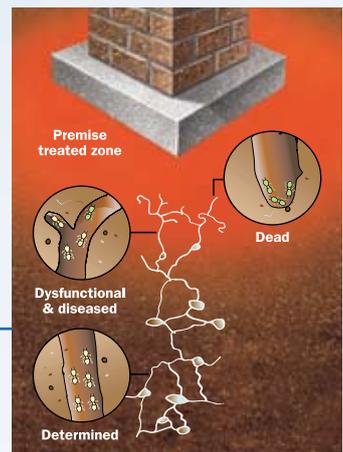
Termites can't detect the **Premise** Treated Zone.



Once exposed to **Premise**, termites stop feeding and soon die.



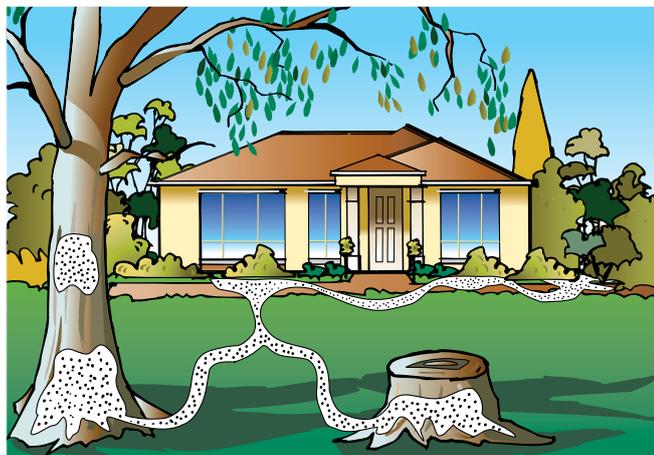
Termites exposed to **Premise** transfer the product to unexposed colony members through social interaction and cannibalism.



Creation of the **Premise** Treated Zone normally involves digging a narrow trench (about 15cm wide) around the foundations. To reach soil under slabs, some drilling of foundation walls, paving or floors may be recommended.

# The Premise Termite Elimination Program

When it comes to protecting your home from termites, you have too much to lose to rely on anything other than a product developed by Bayer and an experienced Pest Management Professional using this proven step-by-step approach:



1. A thorough inspection to find out whether termites are present, to locate and treat their nest if possible, and to identify likely trouble spots.
2. A check of the drainage and ventilation under and around your home and any other structures, with remedial action implemented if necessary.
3. Application of **Premise** to create a Treated Zone.
4. A follow-up inspection of the area within three months after treatment to make sure it has been successful.
5. Regular inspections at least annually as recommended by Australian Standard 3660.

## The reasons to use Premise:

- Safe for you and your home
- Proven effectiveness and reliability (over a million homes treated)
- Provides a long term protection of your home
- Provides a non-repellent Treated Zone with three-way action against termites
- Backed by Bayer

The good news is that – except in tropical areas – termites don't usually cause major damage in a very short time. If you suspect there are termites on your property, they are unlikely to do much damage while you are waiting for a qualified professional to complete a proper inspection and start treatment.

**Don't panic. Arrange to have the termites professionally eliminated from your home by Premise and give yourself lasting peace of mind.**

## Premise Termite Elimination

- Provides an effective and reliable Treated Zone.
- Registered for use through reticulation systems.
- Kills termites rather than just repelling them.
- No odour.
- Low rates.
- No irritancy.
- Water-based formulation.



## The best treatment available

Premise provides reliable, cost-effective and convenient elimination of termites from your home for years – and for worried homeowners that means lasting peace of mind.

