

At a Glance

Background: SmartGUARD™/Advance Guard® products were developed through a strategic alliance of three companies: U.S. Borax Inc., the world's leading borate supplier, Osmose, the leader in wood preservation technology, and LP, the world's largest producer of oriented strand board. Borates are incorporated directly into the manufacturing process of the treated wood products, including building materials such as studs, plywood, joists, rafters and panels.

Since the early 1990s, borates have proven successful in protecting Hawaiian homes against the voracious Formosan termites that infest the islands. Borates have also been used for decades in Europe and New Zealand to protect buildings and homes from wood-destroying organisms. SmartGUARD/Advance Guard products are guaranteed to protect homes for 20 years – four times longer than traditional barriers soil treatments.

Florida: Termites cause up to \$1 billion in property damage a year in Florida alone. SmartGUARD/Advance Guard products were introduced to Florida builders in 2001, giving prospective homebuyers access to an unparalleled, affordable and safe treatment solution.

Termites: The Formosan subterranean termite, native to East Asia, is one of the most destructive and aggressive termites among the 2,400 known species. Nicknamed the “super termite,” the Formosan has already infested 90 counties and parishes in the southeast, including counties in Florida.

The average domestic termite colony eats seven pounds of wood per year while a typical Formosan colony eats 1,000. Formosan termites can build nests above ground, allowing them to bypass traditional soil barriers. Their colonies are ten times larger than native termite colonies, consisting of about 10 million members.

Borates are deadly to termites because they interfere with their metabolic pathways when they are ingested through feeding or grooming. Surviving termites learn to avoid the protected wood products.

Fast Facts:

- Formosan subterranean termites can be found in 14 states throughout the U.S., including Florida.
- Termites collectively cause \$3 billion in damage per year to structures across the U.S.
- Each spring from May to July, mature Formosan subterranean termite colonies swarm in an attempt to form new colonies.
- Borates are biosoluble, meaning our bodies handle them like any other nutrient by using what is required and excreting the rest.
- Borate wood preservatives are safe for people, pets and the environment. Borates are a naturally-occurring mineral that can be found in everyday household items such as cups and plates, laundry detergents, cosmetics and personal care products.

For More Information:

Ross Camp
(415) 975-3314
ross.camp@porternovelli.com

Susan Keefe
(661) 287-5484
susan.keefe@borax.com