

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.

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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.



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Vikane is a federally Restricted Use Pesticide. Always read and follow label directions.

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Before your home is treated with a fumigant, all consumable items in unsealed containers (such as food, medicine, pet food, beverages and candy) need to be protected in special bags or removed from the structure. Check with your pest management professional to find out which method is recommended for you.

What to bag or remove

YES, bag or remove these items:

Medicine, tobacco, vitamins and other ingestible 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, feed, drugs and medicines 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 containers, including plastic containers, such as milk, butter, sour cream and cottage cheese



Eggs, fruits, vegetables and any other forms of produce



Don't forget about these items:

- Any food, feed, drugs, tobacco products and medicinals NOT sealed in glass, plastic or metal bottles, jars or cans with the original manufacturer's airtight seal intact.
- Spices without their original manufacturer's airtight seal intact.

Examples to guide you as you prepare for fumigation:

NO need to bag or remove these items:

- Any food, feed, drugs, tobacco products and medicines if **sealed** in glass, plastic or metal bottles, jars or cans with the **original manufacturer's airtight seal** intact (examples: unopened 2-liter soda/pop, liquor, beer or wine bottles).
- 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.*

*Includes opened containers

Make sure to check:

- ☐ 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

What you'll need

If you're 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. They are available from your pest management professional.

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

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

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 pest management professional.

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.

HOW TO USE NYLOFUME® BAGS



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. Twist the top of the inner bag.



4. Fold once and 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.



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.

IMPORTANT: Keep Nylofume and other such bags out of children's reach. If you have any questions, make sure to contact your pest management professional.