



# Structure Occupant Fact Sheet Fumigant Preparation Checklist

You have decided to have your property fumigated and your fumigator has chosen to use Zythor Fumigant. The information provided here is intended to provide you with some basic information about Zythor Fumigant and why and how it is used. Also, before a fumigation with Zythor can commence, there are certain steps that must be taken to prepare your property and protect certain of its contents. Some of these steps must involve action on your part. You will find here a full explanation of what you need to do to get ready.

If you have questions that are not answered here, please refer to other information you may have been given by your fumigator or call your fumigator. If you have specific questions about Zythor that your operator is unable to answer, call us at 1-866-367-8467.

## WHAT IS ZYTHOR?

Zythor is the tradename for our brand of sulfuryl fluoride fumigant gas. The molecular formula is  $\text{SO}_2\text{F}_2$ . Sulfuryl fluoride is an inorganic compound (does not contain carbon). It is a good choice as a fumigant because it has high penetrating power plus it does not adversely react with items normally found within structures. It is non-staining, non-corrosive and non-flammable. And it does not deplete the ozone layer.

## WHY FUMIGATE TO CONTROL CERTAIN INSECTS?

Fumigation is the only method of insect control able to kill a target insect regardless of its location in the structure. Sulfuryl fluoride fumigant gas penetrates to every possible point of the structure where an insect may be found. Wood destroying insects can do considerable amounts of damage to a structure. Some of these insects inhabit structures in a way that make fumigation the only reliable method of elimination.

## HOW ARE STRUCTURES FUMIGATED?

The objective of fumigation is to create a sealed space in which the target insects are located, and fumigant gas can be confined. In most cases this is accomplished by covering the structure in a gas tight tent. Warning signs are posted on the exterior along with special locks on doors to prevent entry. The confinement period and concentration of sulfuryl fluoride within the structure are predetermined using a specialized calculator. This calculator takes into account a number of factors including the target insect and the temperature inside the structure.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE FUMIGATION IS COMPLETED?

At the end of the fumigation the seal on the structure is broken allowing the remaining gas to escape into the atmosphere. Aeration occurs for a predetermined amount of time and is normally aided by opening windows and using fans. Sulfuryl fluoride dissipates rapidly from open air spaces in the structure. However, it will take longer to dissipate from dead air spaces such as wall voids, below and behind cabinets, and from within porous materials such as wood.

## HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE THE LEVEL OF SULFURYL FLUORIDE IN THE AIR HAS FALLEN TO A SAFE LEVEL FOR RE-OCCUPANCY?

Your fumigator will use a specialized monitoring device to measure the amount of sulfuryl fluoride remaining in the structure. If the concentration of gas in the air is above an EPA mandated clearance level (1ppm) the aeration period will be continued. The EPA mandated clearance level of 1ppm was determined based on studies using laboratory animals that showed no adverse effects from one week of continuous exposure to 100ppm of sulfuryl fluoride.

## WHY DO FOOD ITEMS NEED TO BE PROTECTED AGAINST EXPOSURE?

Before a food item can be exposed to sulfuryl fluoride it must be tested to show that no harmful residues are left behind. This testing has been done for sulfuryl fluoride for only a few food items. As a safety measure no food items can be exposed to Zythor.

## IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE EXPOSED TO SULFURYL FLUORIDE AS A RESULT OF MY PROPERTY BEING FUMIGATED?

Exposure to excess concentrations of sulfuryl fluoride from having your property fumigated is highly unlikely. Symptoms of overexposure include nose and throat irritation, nausea, excess fluid in lungs, sleepiness, pneumonia, and convulsions. These symptoms would appear within 8 hours of overexposure. In the event that you experience these symptoms immediately leave the structure and call your fumigator and physician. Sulfuryl fluoride has not been shown to cause birth defects and studies have demonstrated that it is not mutagenic or genotoxic.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Sulfuryl Fluoride is colorless, odorless, and gives no sensory warnings. A small amount of warning agent called chloropicrin is placed in the structure prior to the release of fumigant gas. Chloropicrin can cause watering of the eyes and scratchiness of the throat at very low levels in the air. Upon completion of the aeration process it is possible for minute amounts of chloropicrin to remain in the air. If you experience these symptoms contact your fumigator.

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# USING FUMIGUARD BAGS

Fumiguard bags are made from a special nylon based film-like material that is highly resistant to the passage of Zythor gas. In order to adequately protect the contents placed inside the bag, the bags must be packed and sealed according to the following directions. Bags can be placed inside refrigerators and freezers.

**Only use Fumiguard bags to protect items against exposure to Zythor. Regular garbage-type plastic bags do not provide protection.**

**Keep Fumiguard bags out of the reach of children.**



## Step 1: Packing a Bag

Place items to be protected inside a Fumiguard bag. Fill the bag only half to two-thirds full to allow it to be closed properly.

## Step 2: Closing the Bag

Twist the top of the bag tightly into a long neck.



## Step 3: Sealing the Bag

Double the twisted neck of the bag over on itself and secure it with a twist tie, tape, string or rubber band.



## Step 4: Double Bagging

Place the sealed bag inside of a second bag. Secure this second bag according to steps two and three.



## Step 5: Testing the Seal

Test the seal of the outer bag by pushing gently against its sides and listening for an air leak.



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Before the fumigation of a structure with Zythor can be conducted, certain preparatory steps must be taken to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the fumigant. Close adherence to these steps can help ensure this.

**It is your responsibility to perform these preparatory steps before the fumigation crew arrives. The fumigation cannot proceed until all items on this list that are applicable to your structure are completed.**

Fumigated structures must be locked during the fumigation period. Make arrangements to leave the keys to the structure with your fumigator and to retrieve them afterwards.

Electricity must be on for the fumigation to be performed. It is needed to power the fans that circulate Zythor throughout the structure.

## INTERIOR PREPARATIONS

### Things that must be removed from the structure:

- All persons, living plants and non-target animals including those on outdoor patios that would be under or close to the fumigation tent
- Mattresses and pillows with waterproof covers that cannot be removed (not waterbeds). Items fitting this description that are not removed will be removed by your fumigator.

### Things that must either be protected from exposure to the fumigant or removed from the structure:

Any food, beverage, drug, medicinal or toiletry item that is consumed or put in the mouth that is not within its manufacturer's original factory sealed airtight container must be removed from the structure or specially sealed within gas tight Fumiguard bags provided by your fumigator. Items to be sealed include food within your refrigerator or freezer. Once properly bagged, items from the refrigerator or freezer can be replaced there for the duration of the fumigation. Items that must be removed or bagged that are not removed or bagged may be trashed by your fumigator.

### Bag or remove these items:

- Food packed in plastic bags such as chips, pasta and rice even if they have not been opened
- Food packed in cardboard boxes such as cereal and crackers even if they have not been opened
- Spices and salt and pepper shakers where the seal has been broken
- Dairy products and eggs
- Ice and drinking water
- Any item stored in a resealable container
- Produce
- Pet food and bird seed in bags
- Tobacco products

### Things that do not need to be bagged or removed:

- Dental hygiene products, including toothpaste, mouthwash, dental adhesives, denture cleanser and tooth whitening products
- Unopened plastic, metal or glass cans, jars or bottles
- Shampoo, soap, cosmetics, externally applied lotions and ointments.
- Unopened bottles of liquor and wine sealed with a cork when stored horizontally.
- Clothes

### Things that must be turned off and/or extinguished:

- Heating and air conditioning system (The fan in the air conditioning system may be used by your fumigator at different times during the fumigation to circulate the Zythor.)
- Burglar alarm
- Gas at the main valve or tank (Some states require that this must be done by the gas company.)
- Heating elements in heaters, pianos and organs
- Pilot lights in heaters, hot water heaters, ovens, ranges, broilers, gas refrigerators, dryers, automatic lighting systems, gas lamps, etc. (Your fumigator will not be responsible for relighting pilot lights.)
- Automatic lighting and appliance controls

### Other preparations:

- Unlock and open all cabinets, drawers, closets, attic accesses and interior doors. Safes and locked storage areas must be left unlocked or keys/combinations must be provided to your fumigator.
- Remove vehicles from garages and carports. (Unlock and open trunk if they cannot be moved.)
- Unzip plastic garment bags.
- Raise blinds and open drapes.
- Remove valuables such as jewelry and furs and empty safes

## EXTERIOR PREPARATIONS

The evening before the fumigation, thoroughly water the soil around shrubs and plants immediately adjacent to the structure and the soil within 18 inches of the structure. This is intended to protect these items from damage from fumigant seeping into the ground around the structure. There is no guarantee that this will completely protect these plants from damage.

- Move items and trim trees sufficiently to allow the fumigation tent to fall freely from the roof straight down to the ground.
- Mulch, rocks, stones or debris may have to be moved in order to create points where the fumigation tent can rest firmly against the ground. Ask your fumigator exactly what needs to be done to make these preparations yourself. If instead you allow your fumigator to move these items, there is no guarantee they will be placed back in the original area or configuration.
- Fences and other abutments to the structure that extend more than 5 feet out from the structure may need to be detached in order to drop the tent to the ground. Your fumigator will inform you if this is the case, and if a craftsman such as a carpenter or bricklayer is needed to make alterations.
- Retract any awnings, valences or shades.
- Remove (as requested) any TV antenna guidewires.

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## SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT CATS

Be particularly careful to make sure that no cats, including neighbor's cats, are left within or under the structure during the fumigation. If there is a space in or under your house that cats can occupy without your knowledge you may want to notify neighbors with cats when your house is going to be fumigated.

## THINGS FOR WHICH YOUR FUMIGATOR CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE

- Broken roof shingles or tiles, patio covers, gutters, antennas, electrical wires or solar heater panels
- Damage caused by the application and removal of tape to a painted or plaster surface of the structure
- Vandalism, theft or breaking and entering at the structure (The structure is not guarded during the fumigation period. At your option you may guard the structure yourself or make arrangements to hire a guard service.)
- Damage to trees, shrubs or plants due to breakage or exposure to the fumigant
- Damage to plant and vine trellises
- The weather, which may delay the fumigation if unsafe conditions such as high wind or lightning are present or expected or if low temperatures occur that would make the fumigant less effective.
- Damage to doors that must be secured by nailing shut that cannot be properly locked

## THINGS YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR FUMIGATOR

- Advise your fumigator if there are any connections between the structure and another structure such as conduits, ducting, drain lines, vacuum lines or tunnels that could possibly allow the passage of fumigant from the fumigated structure to another structure. Severe injury or death could result.
- Normally, all operable windows will be opened by your fumigator after the structure is tented and will remain open until the initial aeration procedure is completed. Let your fumigator know if any windows cannot be opened.

## AFTER THE FUMIGATION IS COMPLETED

- Do not attempt to reenter the structure until you are told by your fumigator that the structure is clear for reentry.
- If you are interested or concerned, you should ask your fumigator to show you the records of how your structure was aerated before it was cleared for reentry.
- It is not necessary to wash dishes, linens or clothes exposed to Zythor.
- You may wish to increase ventilation of your structure by opening doors and windows for a period of time after your return. This may reduce the chances of encountering any residual chloropicrin warning agent.

## HOW TO PROPERLY AND SAFELY PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR FUMIGATION INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO



<https://bit.ly/2OUpmiF>



<https://bit.ly/2EijEVR>

## Structure Occupant Acknowledgement

I certify that all items on this Preparation Checklist applicable to my structure have been completed:

Signature: X

Date: X

If you have any questions, please contact your fumigator at: