

## PROPERTY OWNER FACT SHEET

### Why do you have a subterranean termite problem?

Most property owners realize they have a termite problem when they experience a "termite swarm" in their structure. This usually happens in the spring and more than 98% of the swarming termites will die shortly after the swarm. The few surviving males and females pair up, dig a hole in the soil, mate, and eggs are laid to begin a new colony. After a few years, the colony begins to produce its own reproductives that swarm to start the process over again. Over time, a termite population can grow to 500,000 to several million termites. Established colonies of subterranean termites constantly forage for food containing cellulose, such as wood or paper, by tunneling in the soil and by building mud tubes out of the soil (i.e., up the foundation of a building). Once food is located, such as a woodpile or the wood frame of the structure, the termites begin to feed more and more on the newly discovered food source while other termites within the same population continue to look for more food.

Unfortunately, one or more types of subterranean termites and even more than one colony of termites may attack a structure at the same time. Termites also continue to forage in the soil for food through the years thus control, from a practical standpoint, centers upon a long-term plan of monitoring and protecting the structure from new termite activity by pest management professionals.

### How does the FirstLine® Termite Defense System<sup>SM</sup> protect your structure?

The FirstLine® Termite Defense System<sup>SM</sup> was developed by FMC Corporation and is purchased and used by pest management professionals (PMPs) to control termites in and around structures. The system contains multiple elements to provide the PMP with the best options to protect your structure. The main elements of the system include:

- Installation of either the Defender™ unit or SMARTDISC™ Locator and Monitoring Stations around the perimeter of your structure, followed by regular monitoring.
- Control of termites through the use of a localized treatment with Talstar® Termiticide/ Insecticide and/or the use of above ground FirstLine® Termite Bait Stations and/or the use of in ground FirstLine® GT Plus Termite Bait Stations.
- Scheduled monitoring and inspection of the structure for on-going protection.
- Many PMPs use SMARTRAK™ software to assist in management of activities.

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**FMC**

April 22, 07  
*[Signature]*

## **How does the PMP monitor your structure?**

In most situations a Defender™ unit or a termite monitoring station, fitted with a SMARTDISC™ Locator is first installed in the soil every 10 - 20 feet around the structure. Both the Defender™ unit and the monitoring station should be inspected at least on a quarterly basis. Once the Defender™ unit or the monitoring station becomes infested with termites, a FirstLine® GT Plus Termite Bait Station is then installed in the Defender™ unit or in place of the monitoring station, and should be inspected on a monthly basis until termite control is achieved or when termite activity ceases in the station.

The FirstLine® Termite Bait Station is another method of control that is attached directly to active termite mud tubes found above ground inside or outside of the structure. These stations have a high degree of acceptance by termites. It is not unusual for termites to build mud tubes out of these stations. The new mud tubes can also be baited or the station repositioned by the pest management professional.

The PMP should inspect FirstLine® termite bait stations on a monthly basis after the bait station has been installed. FirstLine® termite bait stations may be replaced, or more added, depending on termite activity. The PMP will always read and follow label directions.

## **How do FirstLine® bait stations control termites?**

All of the FirstLine® termite bait stations contain a food matrix treated with sulfluramid, a slow acting stomach toxicant. Termites begin to feed upon treated bait soon after they locate the bait station and begin to share the toxicant with other termites within the population. Termites begin to die a few weeks after eating and sharing the bait. FirstLine® GT Plus Termite Bait Stations are certified "Child Resistant" according to the guidelines set forth by the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

## **How long will it take to control the termites?**

The pest management professional cannot accurately predict the amount of time required for control because control depends upon when the termites locate the stations (warm or cool time of the year) and the size and location of the termite colonies. Bait stations may need to be replaced several times over a period of months to achieve control. Depending upon the size of the termite population and the time of the year baiting begins; it may take six months or more for control to occur. During this time, termites may continue to feed on and damage the structure.

## **What else should you know about termites?**

Termites are easy to disturb. Property owners should not touch installed stations as disturbance may cause the termites to leave the station. Do not spray the stations with a pesticide (or any other chemical products such as: cleaning solutions, soaps, fertilizers, etc.). If questions arise, please contact your pest management professional or FMC at 1-800-321-1FMC. For more information about the FirstLine® Termite Defense System<sup>SM</sup> visit our website at [www.fmc-apgspec.com](http://www.fmc-apgspec.com).

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