

## ACES Factsheet: **DIY BORER TREATMENT**



Borer is a beetle that can potentially destroy the structure of your building

### **WHAT IS BORER?**

Borer is a beetle which belongs to the order Coleoptera. Coleopterans are the most common type of insect in the world, with the highest numbers in terms of mass and species.

Borer larvae feed in a random pattern on the wood in your house. Their preference is untreated sapwood. They will not feed on heartwood. It is common to see a completely unaffected piece of wood next to an infested piece. Typically untreated heartwood is found in older houses e.g. turn of the century Villas.

The larvae take 3-4 years to mature into beetles. Borer beetles are small (5mm) rectangular dark brown insects. The beetles do NOT feed on wood.

The adult (beetles) are on the wing from around January to April. They mate but do not feed and then lay eggs into suitable wood. And the cycle begins again.

### **HOW DO I KNOW MY BORER IS ACTIVE?**

You need to look for the Borer holes. When borer larvae is active frass (fine sawdust) comes out of their holes. Frass has a distinct colour of yellow/orange.

### **LOOK FOR:**

- small piles of frass
- frass coming out and down from borer holes
- frass covering your possessions in the affected area
- in extreme cases damage to structure of the wood.

### **IS MY BUILDING SUITABLE FOR A TREATMENT?**

You will need the following

- All insulation removed from areas to be treated.
- Wood to be treated needs to be naked free of paint and varnish
- Access. You need to be able to get access to the areas to be treated e.g. sub floor area

### **DIY BORER TREATMENT**

There are two ways of treating Borer

1. Treat the beetle. Treatment every year in Jan-March with high strength Permethrin EC (500g/litre) when the beetles emerge.

Spray treatment onto affected wood for a number of years until the borer activity reduces. Please note doesn't work directly on larvae and beetles have to come into contact with treated surfaces.

### **OR**

2. Treat the larvae. Using Borate Chloride SALT soak the spray into the wood surfaces. Please note doesn't work directly on beetles. This treatment can take up to nine months to have an effect on the borer activity.

The concept of treating Borer is to treat the exposed timber where borer larvae or beetles are active. It is important to get an enough chemicals or salt into the wood to be effective. This can mean multiple coats.

PLEASE NOTE: always wear protective gear, e.g. protective eye wear, mask and gloves. If using the Permethrin EC spray you will need an organic filter on your mask.

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