

# FACT SHEET



Drexel

## **Master Fume™** Specialty Gas Fumigant

This fact sheet for Master Fume (Sulfuryl fluoride fumigant) is intended to provide basic information about this 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 Master Fume gas fumigant (the fumigant used) or the procedures described, call Drexel Chemical Company at (901)774-4370 or e-mail [info@drexchem.com](mailto:info@drexchem.com), attention Ben Johnson, Product Manager, or Robert Fields, Program Manager.

### **WHY FUMIGATE**

Houses, apartments, and other dwellings or structures can be seriously damaged by insect pests that feed or tunnel into the wood. More than 5 million homes each year are damaged by termites or other wood destroying insects. 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 or some species of general household pest.

### **HOW TO FUMIGATE**

Because Master Fume is a gas, the structure to be fumigated is completely sealed prior to fumigation to contain the gas so it can penetrate wood thoroughly and eliminate the pests. Depending on the construction of the building, doors and windows may be sealed with tape or tape and a plastic sheet. The most used method is to cover the structure with tarps designed for fumigation and seal them to the ground. The building will remain sealed for 2 to 72 hours, with 18 to 24 hours being a typical exposure period depending on the specifics of the job. Warning signs are posted around the building to notify people to keep out.

After the exposure period the tarps or tape is removed and all operable windows and doors are opened starting 1 hour minimum of active aeration process. After 1 hour the structure will be re-secured and the passive aeration process continues, as extremely low levels of fumigant can remain for a short period of time in dead air space between wall and inside cabinets as well as in porous materials such as furniture. Once the aeration process is complete the fumigator will use equipment designed to determine if any fumigant remains in the structure or that it is below 1ppm, the approved EPA concentration level for safe reentry. Safe reentry notices will be placed on the structure with the time and date safe reentry was determined. Structures can be occupied only when the EPA approved concentration is 1 part per million (ppm) or below. Aeration is rapid since Master Fume is a true gas. Recent studies have shown that in most structures, levels are less than 1 ppm within 6 hours of clearing and have no detectable levels of sulfuryl fluoride gas fumigant within 24 hours after the start of aeration.

Sulfuryl fluoride is a colorless, odorless gas, so a warning agent like Chloropicrin is added to cause 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 and can potentially enter your body only through inhalation. It does not stay on dry surfaces, thus, there is no exposure from touching treated surfaces.

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 no mutagenic or genotoxic effects caused by exposure to sulfuryl fluoride.

### **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 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 to reentry.
- You may wish to increase ventilation by opening doors and windows.

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 Drexel Chemical Company at (901)774-4370 if you need additional information or have questions concerning the product.

These materials have been created for Master Fume specialty gas fumigant and no other structural fumigant. The information contained in these materials is based on the product label and instructions for use for Master Fume and are not intended for use with other structural fumigants. These materials may not be reproduced or copied without permission of Drexel Chemical Company.

Manufactured By:



**Drexel Chemical Company**

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

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