

Identifying Connected Structures



So your home or property has a drywood termite infestation, now what? There are several treatment options available to you, including fumigation with Vikane* gas fumigant – the best means to eliminate wood-destroying insects throughout the structure.

As a gas, Vikane penetrates deep into cracks, crevices, pinhole openings and even wood pores throughout the structure reaching all areas where drywood termites might hide. Vikane will occupy all the airspace within the structure. Such complete penetration also means that any construction elements connecting buildings,

such as roofs, attics or crawlspaces, may allow the passage of fumigant from the structure being fumigated to an adjacent structure. That's why the proper identification of all possible connections between structures is an essential aspect of every fumigation.

Your inspector will perform a visual inspection of your property to check for such connections, however some hidden connections may exist. *As the property owner/manager, you may be the best person to help identify any of these connections.*

Be aware of the following construction elements that may allow the passage of fumigant from one structure to another.

- Central vacuum lines
- PVC or metal pipes that house electrical, telephone and cable lines above or below ground (PLEASE NOTE: The utility wires themselves do not carry the fumigant, instead the airspace in the piping that houses them may allow fumigant passage.)
- Shared crawlspace
- Hollow-block walls between structures (PLEASE NOTE: These walls may be covered with stucco or other ornamental layers.)
- French drains, gutter systems and landscape drains
- Common roof or attic
- Common walls (i.e., archways, breezeways, abutments)

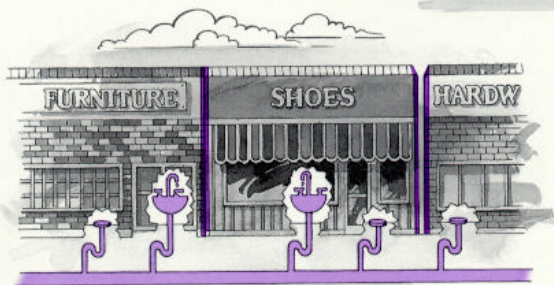
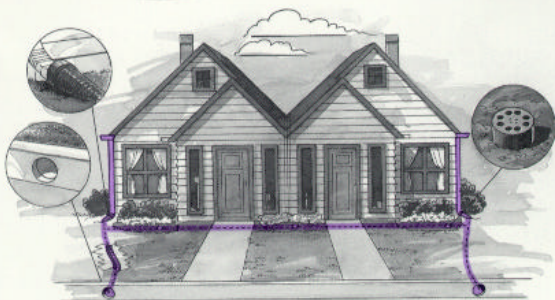
If any connections are found on your property, the inspector will document these for the fumigator. The fumigator will then take steps to seal off, or disconnect the connection, to ensure a safe and effective fumigation. If the connection cannot be effectively sealed or disconnected, the structure connected to the building to be fumigated will also need to be prepared and vacated for the fumigation.

The figures below illustrate some construction elements that may allow the passage of Vikane® gas fumigant from the structure being fumigated to an adjacent or other structure on the property. Although your inspector will perform a visual inspection of your property prior to the fumigation, you may be the best source of information about possible connections, especially those that may be hidden from view. By working with your inspector, you can help ensure a safe and effective fumigation and the eradication of wood-destroying insects throughout your structure.



Beware of connected walkways and hollow-block walls (in this case, covered by stucco).

Tell your inspector where gutters, downspouts and drainage systems empty. Drainage systems that originate within the fumigation area, and empty into the storm drain, at the curb or into a system connected to other structures, may allow substantial gas loss to unidentified areas.



In situations where water is turned off and drainage pipes (specifically P-traps) are empty, the pipes can potentially carry fumigant from one structure to another. Inform your inspector if the water is shut off in the structure to be fumigated.

Potential hazards may lurk underground, too. Here, the central vacuum line and the pipe carrying telephone, electrical and cable wires connect the two structures and may allow the movement of Vikane from one structure to another.

