

# Structural Pest Control Section · Division of Plant Industry

## Georgia Department of Agriculture

### Compliance Fact Sheet

#### Minimum Treatment Standards for Wood Destroying Beetles

This fact sheet is for structural pest control operators and technicians. It provides guidance on how to comply with Rule 620-6-.04(3) the minimum adequate treatment standards for the control or prevention of wood destroying beetles in the Rules of the *Georgia Structural Pest Control Act*. These rules were amended April 1, 2014.

#### **When does the rule apply?**

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The rule requires specific minimum control standards for the control or prevention of the following wood boring beetles:

- Powder Post Beetles
- Wood Borers
- Old House Borers

#### **What are the minimum standard requirements?**

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The **application of a pesticide** is required and the application must be made in accordance with the product directions for use requirements for the target pest.

#### **What are the additional minimum standard requirements for infestations in the crawlspace?**

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- Installation of a **vapor barrier** to a minimum ground surface area of 70% of the total exposed soil surface and
- **Inspection and correction** of crawlspace ventilation according to the International Residential Building Code for One and Two Family Dwellings, the latest edition as adopted by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

#### **Can an *Official Waiver* form be issued for the minimum standards?**

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No. The *Official Waiver* form is for subterranean termite treatment standards only.

#### **What is an approved vapor barrier?**

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The vapor barrier must be a Class I vapor retarder. A Class I vapor retarder has a permeance level of 0.1 perm or less and is considered impermeable. The perm rating is a measure of the diffusion of water vapor through a material. Any material that has a perm rating of 1 or less is considered to be an adequate vapor retarder for residential construction. The industry standard is a polyethylene material of 4-6 mil which complies with a Class I vapor retarder.

#### **What are the ventilation options that comply with the ventilation standards?**

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Refer to [SPCS 14-08 Under-floor space Ventilation Fact Sheet](#).

#### **What if the vapor barrier is currently installed?**

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If the vapor barrier is already installed and meets the requirements, then no action is required.

#### **Should a contract be issued?**

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Yes. A written contract to the property owner or owner's agent covering the control or prevention of wood boring beetles in the structure is required. The contract must be issued according to the WDO Contract Rule 620-6-.02. Refer to [SPCS 14-04 WDO Contracts Fact Sheet](#).

## Online Resources

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[Laws & Regulations](#)

[Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission](#)

[Residential Building Code for ventilation](#)

Also posted at [www.agr.georgia.gov/structural](http://www.agr.georgia.gov/structural)

If further assistance is needed, contact the Structural Pest Control Office or an inspector at (404) 656-3641 or [inspection@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:inspection@agr.georgia.gov)

The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission and Georgia Department of Agriculture have issued this guidance document to help pest management professionals comply with the Rules of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act. This document does not include all regulatory requirements. Refer to the complete Rules of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act for all rules and regulations.

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