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In most cases, orange oil tops fumigation

Richard Fagerlund
 Saturday, March 22, 2008

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Ask the Bugman

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Q: How effective is orange oil against drywood termites compared with fumigation with Vikane?

A: I firmly believe orange oil is a very good alternative to structural fumigation. However, the war between the fumigators and orange oil practitioners has reached both the Structural Pest Control Board and the attorney general's office, and they have fined several companies that advertised orange oil as an alternative to tent fumigation. It seems as if California is determined to use pesticides wherever possible, even when viable alternatives are available. Ask the people who are regularly getting hosed with chemicals in a futile attempt to eradicate a moth.

I do agree that a tent fumigation is still the primary treatment recommendation for homes that have severe or inaccessible infestations of termites. In most cases, however, orange oil is the better method.

Contact me if you want a referral for a company that uses orange oil correctly and doesn't engage in false advertising.

Bug identification: I will be happy to identify insects or other arthropods (bugs) from anywhere in the country. If you want a bug or bugs identified, please fill out an ID form and follow the mailing instructions on my Web site, as shown below. There is a fee of \$10 (cash, check or money order) for bug identification. If you send more than one species of bug for identification, include \$10 per species. All proceeds from this service go to animal welfare.

Richard Fagerlund is a pest management specialist who promotes non-toxic methods of pest control. For information or to contact him, see www.askthebugman.com.

This article appeared on page F - 5 of the San Francisco Chronicle

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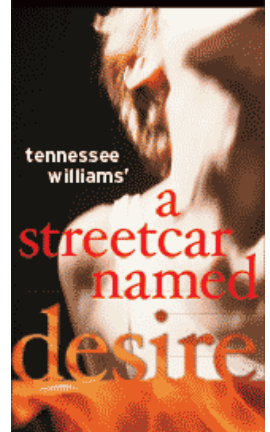
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