



Home Tips®



• CHRISTIAN BUILDING INSPECTORS, INC., 1003 STAR COURT, NORCROSS, GEORGIA 30093, (770) 925-8518 • SEPTEMBER 1999 •

Q & A

Do The Termite Stakes Really Work?

We have seen great claims for a do-it-yourself termite extermination kit. Do they really work?

Hundreds of thousands of people using a popular do-it-yourself termite extermination kit may not be as protected as they think, and those people may be entitled to a refund.

Commercials for Terminate, a so called do-it-yourself termite protection, first hit the air last summer. The claims were questioned by local entomologists and the Attorney General. Federal regulators looked into it and took action. Do-it-yourselfers across the country paid anywhere from \$50 to \$100 for the insecticide treated stakes that are



placed in the ground around a house. But, the Federal Trade Commission says those homeowners were misled into believing Terminate was an easy fix. That is the same thing local entomologists warned people about when the product first came on the market. "We are concerned that people will believe that all they have to do is put the product in the ground and there are no worries," said Carl Falco of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Four months later, North Carolina Attorney General Mike Easley joined eight other Attorneys General and the FTC in filing legal action against the manufacturer. The FTC found United Industries Corporation failed to tell consumers the product requires frequent inspection and that it did not work against certain termites. Now, United Industries has agreed to a settlement and vows not to make claims about the effectiveness of Terminate unless it can back them with scientific proof. The settlement also requires all Terminate ads to say what the experts have said all along. If someone has termites in their home, they should get a professional inspection.

United Industries also agreed to provide refunds to consumers dissatisfied with Terminate. To get one, send proof

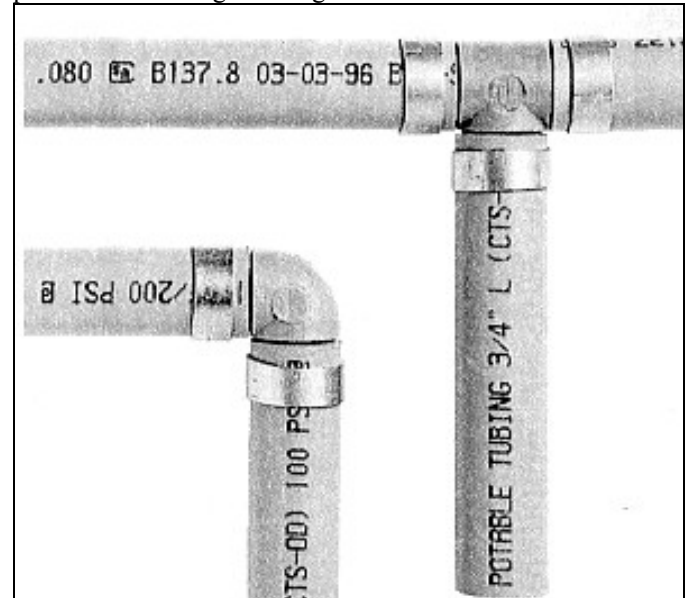
of purchase such as a receipt or the box to: Consumer Services Department, United Industries Corporation, 8494 Delport Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63114. The Georgia legal action was by STATE OF GEORGIA, ex rel., BARRY W. REID, Administrator of the Fair Business Practices Act of 1975, Attorney General THURBERT E. BAKER, Office of the Attorney General, 40 Capitol Square, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30334-1300.

Source: WRAL-TV, RALEIGH, NC,
<http://search.wral-tv.com/features/5onyourside/1999/0319-termites/index.html>

Another Polybutylene Class Action Settlement?

Is there another class action settlement for the people who own homes with polybutylene piping?

Yes! The Spencer Class Action covers homes that were plumbed inside using polybutylene plumbing systems with polybutylene pipe connected with acetal plastic insert fittings. The polybutylene pipe is usually gray plastic. The plastic acetal insert fittings are usually gray and occasionally white plastic. There are a variety of other fitting systems used with polybutylene pipe, but only the systems with gray or white plastic insert fittings are eligible for reimbursement under the



terms of the Spencer Class Action. The homeowner must own or have owned a home with the above polybutylene system and must have had it replumbed in order to be considered for reimbursement under the Spencer program.

