



# TERMITE PROTECTION

## WITHOUT PESTICIDES

**E**ach year, termites cost home and business owners in the U.S. \$30 billion in damages. As a result, homeowners spend up to \$5 billion annually to take on the seemingly never-ending battle of fighting termite infestation throughout the life of a structure, which has many homeowners looking for a sustainable solution that does not involve using poisonous chemicals around their home. This devastating trend, combined with homeowners' concerns over children and pets being exposed to poisonous chemicals, prompted Polyguard Products in Ennis, Texas, working with Texas A&M, to seek a better alternative—a way to keep termites out of a home without pesticides.

### TESTING AND HISTORY OF PARTICLE BARRIERS

Backed by years of testing worldwide and at Texas A&M University, stone particle barriers surrounding the foundation of a home are now available through TERM Particle Barrier System developed by Polyguard. Although particle barriers are just arriving to the mainland United States, the concept was first researched at the University of California, Berkeley in 1956 by Dr. Walter Eberling. Substantial research in particle termite barriers has been ongoing at the University of Hawaii, beginning with research by Dr. Minoru Tamashiro in the 1980s. From that successful research, crushed basaltic rock termite barriers have been widely used in Hawaii since the early 1990s. Crushed granite particle barriers, tested by Australia's national research lab CSIRO, are used across that country.

Building off the effectiveness of the concept worldwide, researchers at Texas A&M's Department of Urban and Structural Entomology, led by Dr. Roger Gold, investigated particle barriers for mainland U.S. species

of subterranean termites since 2005. Those results show that utilizing the particle barrier system developed by Polyguard stops subterranean termites without the use of poisonous chemicals—see the results of the study at [www.particlebarrier.com/A&M\\_Report.pdf](http://www.particlebarrier.com/A&M_Report.pdf).

### APPLICATION AVAILABLE IN THE U.S.

The TERM Particle Barrier, based on the results of the testing mentioned above, is now available in Texas. TERM Particle Barrier is the first termite treatment approved by Texas regulators for existing structures. And homeowners need not worry about dangerous chemicals being applied inside or outside their homes, where children or pets can be exposed. In fact, the EPA classifies the treatment as a “device” rather than a pesticide.

With termite swarming season upon us, the TERM system will be applied to numerous homes throughout Texas and the South this spring. The difference between this treatment and other termite treatments

is the sustainability of the product. While pest control professionals must inspect the integrity of the system annually, a system installed this year will be good for the life of the structure—all without needing to use pesticides.

Galveston-area Pest Control Professional Bryan Springer has worked with the particle barrier for 15 years and says it's the most effective way to reduce pesticides while protecting a home against termites. “I have a lot of customers who want that,” Springer said. “This is the only product that I've seen that is an exterior barrier treatment that uses no pesticides and works.” ■



Particle barrier being applied outside of a home.