

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-647-0000**

**Borate Termite Treatment**

**Code:** 2018 Building Code  
**Section:** 2304.12.4

**Date:** September 13, 2018

**Code:** 2018 Residential Code  
**Section:** R318

**Question:**

May borates be used as a termite treatment?

**Answer:**

Yes. The NC Structural Pest Control Committee of the Department of Agriculture has issued the following statement in a letter concerning borates (Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate, or DOT) for the prevention of subterranean termites in new construction:

“The borate-based products are among the termiticides approved by the Committee under 2NCAC 34.0502(b) as standalone treatments. Section 02 NCAC 34.0505 (6) of the Rules and Regulations specifies that such DOT treatments are an acceptable alternative to termite baiting systems of soil applied termiticides in North Carolina. In addition, some of these DOT products are listed on the Division’s web site as approved sole source termiticides for preconstruction termite treatments.”

As such, borate treatment systems approved by the Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division of the NC Department of Agriculture may be allowed as an alternate method of protection against subterranean termites as required in Section R318 of the 2018 NC Residential Code and in Section 2304.12.4 of the 2018 NC Building Code.