

**KIWICARE<sup>®</sup>**

# Technical Sheet

## 1–2–3 Borer Control

How to Control Borer and Protect Wood



## About Wood Boring Insects

### Common borer

You may not notice these beetles except when they collect on the window sills or corners of the rooms in your house, but you will notice the tell-tale flight holes and damage to wood around your home.



There are two very similar species the common borer (*Annobium punctatum*) and the native (*Leanobium flavomaculatum*). [Borer](#) (both common and native) are pests of major economic importance in New Zealand, the significance of which is not yet adequately recognised. As New Zealand houses get older the damage to timbers accumulates and attacked timbers become progressively weaker. It is not uncommon for weatherboards, floorboards, joists and other structural timbers to need replacing due to weakness caused by borer. The holes and labyrinths created by borer larvae also allow water to penetrate many timbers and increases rot by fungi.

The larvae (woodworm), after 2 - 4 years spent tunnelling inside the wood will exit as the adult beetle via a round hole, 1 - 2mm in diameter. Cutting out this trapdoor is their final wood destroying act. They emerge in order to breed, will not eat any more timber and will die within 3 - 4 weeks.

#### Life cycles - Common and native:

- Egg-larvae 14-28 days
- Larvae-pupae 2-3 years
  - Attacks only soft sapwoods.
- Pupae-adult 21-60 days
- Adult-beetle 3-4 weeks
  - Exits October - February.
  - Rounded holes 1-2mm.

## About Other Wood Damaging Pests

The Longhorn borer beetles include the Two-Toothed Longhorn, (*Ambeodontus tristis*), Burnt Pine Longhorn and Huhu grub beetles. The grubs or larvae of these beetles feed on dead timber and the Two-Toothed is a major pest damaging timbers in buildings and damaging timber in the timber industry.

Longhorn beetles are long, with narrow bodies and very long antennae. The adult beetles may be found on flowers where they feed on nectar but the adults of some species adults do not feed at all.

Longhorn beetles are much larger than house borer beetles. The larvae of Two-Tooth borer often cause severe damage to Rimu floors and other timbers. As well as being larger than common borer flight holes, the Two Toothed Borer flight holes are approximately 3-4mm across, the flight holes of Longhorn beetles tend to be oval rather than round.

- 5 - 7 years inside wood.
- Exits March-May.
- Oval holes 2mm x 6mm.
- Attacks soft & heart wood.

### Termites

[Termites](#) also cause damage to timbers. There are both native and introduced termites in New Zealand.

These can cause significant damage to timbers and have significant differences in habits and treatments and so are dealt with in a separate document. If you suspect termites go to [kiwicare.co.nz](http://kiwicare.co.nz) for further advice.



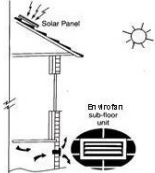
# Kiwicare 1-2-3 Borer Control

## Controls adults and larvae of:

- Common borer
- Native borer
- Two-toothed borer
- Other wood damaging pests.

## Directions

### For all wood damaging insects

<p>1. <b>Protect</b> – The best option is always to protect the wood directly by treating it with long lasting <a href="#">NO Borer Total Wood Protection</a> fluid.</p> <p>Treat any bare wood with <a href="#">NO Borer Total Wood Protection</a>. <a href="#">NO Borer Total Wood Protection</a> concentrate and ready to use will penetrate deep into the timber and in normal circumstances protect the wood for many years. Small areas where solvent cannot be used can be treated with <a href="#">NO Borer Total Wood Protection</a> ready to use trigger spray.</p> <p><b>Inject</b> - Inject flight holes in painted, varnished or polished timbers with <a href="#">NO Borer Spray Injector</a>. The aerosol forces insecticide into the labyrinth created by the borer larva, killing any larva in the labyrinth or nearby. It also prevents adult beetles laying eggs in the flight hole.</p>	
<p>2. <b>Fumigate</b> –Use <a href="#">NO Bugs Super Fumigator Oct-Mar</a> to quickly knock down adult beetles before they mate and re-infest wood. <a href="#">NO Bugs Super Bug Bombs</a> can be used as an alternative in spaces that have good height.</p> <p>Fumigation is often the only option for treating homes and buildings where all the timbers cannot be easily accessed.</p>	
<p>3. <b>Ventilate/Dry</b> - Borer prefer timber that has some moisture in it. Ensure that your sub-floor and roof spaces are dry and well ventilated. Check for plumbing leaks and unblock all air vents.</p>	

## For Best Results

- See the [short video](#) on [kiwicare.co.nz](http://kiwicare.co.nz) for more information on control of wood damaging pests.

## Caution

- Keep all animals out of the area being treated during treatment and until all sprays have dried completely.

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For information, advice and our interactive  
problem solver

Kiwicare Corporation Limited  
225 Maces Road, Bromley, Christchurch  
Phone (03) 389-0778