

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BORACOL

**Boracol  
100RH**

Fungicide

**Boracol  
200RH**

Fungicide

**Boracol  
400RH**

Fungicide

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## WHAT IS BORACOL?

Boracol is the name given to a series of 3 products that have been formulated to perform at their best for specific conditions and application. Ensure that you specify the correct product for best performance.

1. **Boracol 100RH** can be used for the management of mould, fungal growth and similar on timber, concrete and masonry surfaces.
2. **Boracol 200RH** has been formulated to provide remedial treatment against fungal decay and insect attack for timber
3. **Boracol 400RH** is a heavy duty formulation for treating timber against fungal decay and insect attack.

**More specific information is contained in Boracol Product Description Sheets.**

Boracol is based on boron as DISODIUM OCTABORATE TETRAHYDRATE plus a co-biocide (benzalkonium chloride ) dissolved in monoethylene glycol solvent. The active ingredients in Boracol can be mobile depending on moisture distribution in the substrate being treated and as a result can penetrate further into the cross-section.

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## WHERE SHOULD I USE BORACOL?

The 3 Boracol formulations are ideally used for the specific circumstances as described above.

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## WILL BORACOL PREVENT DECAY, MOULD GROWTH AND INSECT ATTACK?

**Boracol 100RH** has been shown to be very effective against existing mould, fungi, moss etc and to resist their re-establishment on timber, concrete and masonry surfaces. Nevertheless, if mould, fungi and moss etc. re-establish, further applications of Boracol 100RH may be necessary.

**Boracol 200RH** Tests conducted by Forest Research(NZ) have concluded that wood treated with Boracol 200RH is resistant to decay when used in weather protected above ground areas (eg framing timbers). Note: Boracol can stop decay from advancing, but cannot restore structural strength to rotten timbers. The recommended usage rate has been proven to prevent all borer attack; where termite control is desired it should be used at the higher remedial rate.

**Boracol 400RH** contains a higher concentration of Boron and is used in industrial timber applications where it is generally painted or poured into drill holes.(refer Product Description Sheet)

Some moulds can still grow on **Boracol 100RH, 200RH and 400RH** treated surfaces, but in general mould growth is significantly repressed compared to an untreated surface. Note that moulds do not affect wood's structural strength.



## **GUARANTEES**

Boracol products do not carry any specific guarantee of effectiveness because these products are applied by the user in environments where application rates and distribution of the product into the substrate cannot be fully controlled. Some types of mould, fungi and other organisms may be resistant to Boracol.

## **IS THIS A NEW PRODUCT?**

Boracol is sold in many other countries under the names Boracol and Bora-Care. The product has been in use for decades in countries where there has been a need for remedial treatments of buildings due to insect attack or dampness problems.

## **WHAT SURFACE PREPARATION IS NECESSARY BEFORE APPLYING BORACOL?**

Boracol cannot penetrate through any previous surface coatings like paint or stain, and these should be removed before application. Remove any soil, sawdust, fungal growth or other debris by brushing or water blasting.

## **CAN I APPLY BORACOL TO DAMP WOOD AND OTHER SURFACES?**

Yes; actually Boracol will penetrate more rapidly into damp surfaces. To improve absorption into very dry timber, pre-wetting the surfaces with water is recommended; Boracol can then be applied as soon as the water has been absorbed.

## **CAN I DILUTE BORACOL?**

This is not recommended; in order to deliver the right retention of preservative, the product should be used at its original concentration.

## **CAN I SPRAY BORACOL?**

Yes, you can use an airless or high pressure sprayer or garden sprayers for smaller areas (Boracol 400RH is not recommended for spray application). If dilution is unavoidable (suggest a maximum of 10%, using water) then an additional coat should be applied to compensate for the reduced concentration of the product. If a spray mist is generated, you should wear appropriate skin coverings, a mask fitted with organic solvent cartridges and avoid any inhalation of mists. See below for further safety recommendations.

## **HOW DO I CLEAN UP AFTER APPLYING BORACOL?**

Brushes, rollers and any surfaces accidentally coated can be cleaned with water.

## **HOW LONG DOES BORACOL TAKE TO DRY?**

This depends to a degree on surface conditions and moisture; generally surfaces will be touch-dry in 2 hours. Where surfaces are to be subsequently painted or glued we recommend a minimum 48 hours drying time. Boracol does not dry on the surface to form a film, rather it is absorbed into the timber where it can penetrate and protect from within.



### **HOW LONG SHOULD I WAIT BEFORE RECOATING?**

As soon as the surface is touch-dry, a second coat can be applied, generally within two hours.

### **CAN BORACOL-TREATED WOOD BE PAINTED AND GLUED?**

Once the surfaces are dry ( at least 48 hours) most paints can be successfully used. You should contact the paint or adhesive manufacturer for more detail.

### **DOES BORACOL DISCOLOUR TIMBER?**

No, Boracol is colourless. When first applied the timber will darken and look wet, but this will disappear as the product is absorbed.

### **CAN I USE BORACOL OUTSIDE?**

Yes you can, but be aware that the active ingredient is water soluble. Repeated rain wetting will slowly remove the preservative unless it is replenished every few years and/or a water repellent surface coating is applied.

### **IS BORACOL CORROSIVE?**

No; borates are commonly used as anti-corrosive additives. Boracol will not affect metal fixings such as screws, nails, nail plates etc.

### **IS BORACOL INCOMPATIBLE WITH ANY MATERIALS?**

No; Boracol is compatible with all common building products, including all cladding and lining products, damp-proof course, concrete, particle board, insulation etc.

### **DOES BORACOL SMELL?**

The product has a very faint sweet odour when first applied. Once surface dry, odour is generally undetectable.

### **I'VE GOT DECAYED WOOD IN MY HOUSE; WILL BORACOL FIX MY PROBLEM?**

Firstly decay is caused by water, either from leaks through the building envelope or from faulty plumbing; this needs to be addressed before any wood is treated. Secondly, Boracol will assist in halting the advance of decay and assist in preventing re-occurrence, but it can't restore the structural strength of decayed wood. If the decayed piece is structural, you **MUST** replace it or seek advice from a structural engineer.

### **WHAT PROTECTIVE CLOTHING SHOULD I WEAR WHEN APPLYING BORACOL?**

Users of Boracol should avoid all skin contact; you should wear chemical resistant gloves and long sleeve work clothing when handling the liquid, plus eye protection. Do not breathe any mist generated during spraying; wear a mask fitted with organic vapour cartridges. A copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is available for the product.



### **WHAT HAPPENS IF I GET A SPLASH ON MY SKIN?**

Boracol is toxic by absorption but not corrosive; skin burns will not happen, but it is wise to wash any splashes off with soap and water. See the MSDS for details.

### **IS BORACOL SAFE TO HANDLE?**

You should avoid skin contact with surfaces when freshly coated. Once the Boracol has been absorbed and the surfaces are touch dry, treated surfaces pose no additional risks compared to untreated surfaces. Surfaces treated with Boracol should not be used where the runoff is collected for use as drinking water.

### **WILL BORACOL HARM PLANTS?**

At high enough concentrations, the boron component of Boracol is poisonous to plants. Direct spray or splashes, or rain washing from freshly treated surfaces, can cause damage to plants. Hose down affected plants with water immediately.

### **WHAT PACK SIZES ARE AVAILABLE?**

Boracol is available in 5 and 20 L containers.

### **WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

Contact Osmose Australia on 1800 088 809, or visit our website [www.osmose.com.au](http://www.osmose.com.au)



**Osmose Australia**  
**Customer Support 1800 088 809**  
**[www.osmose.com.au](http://www.osmose.com.au)**