

Protecting Your Log Home from Wood Burrowing Pests

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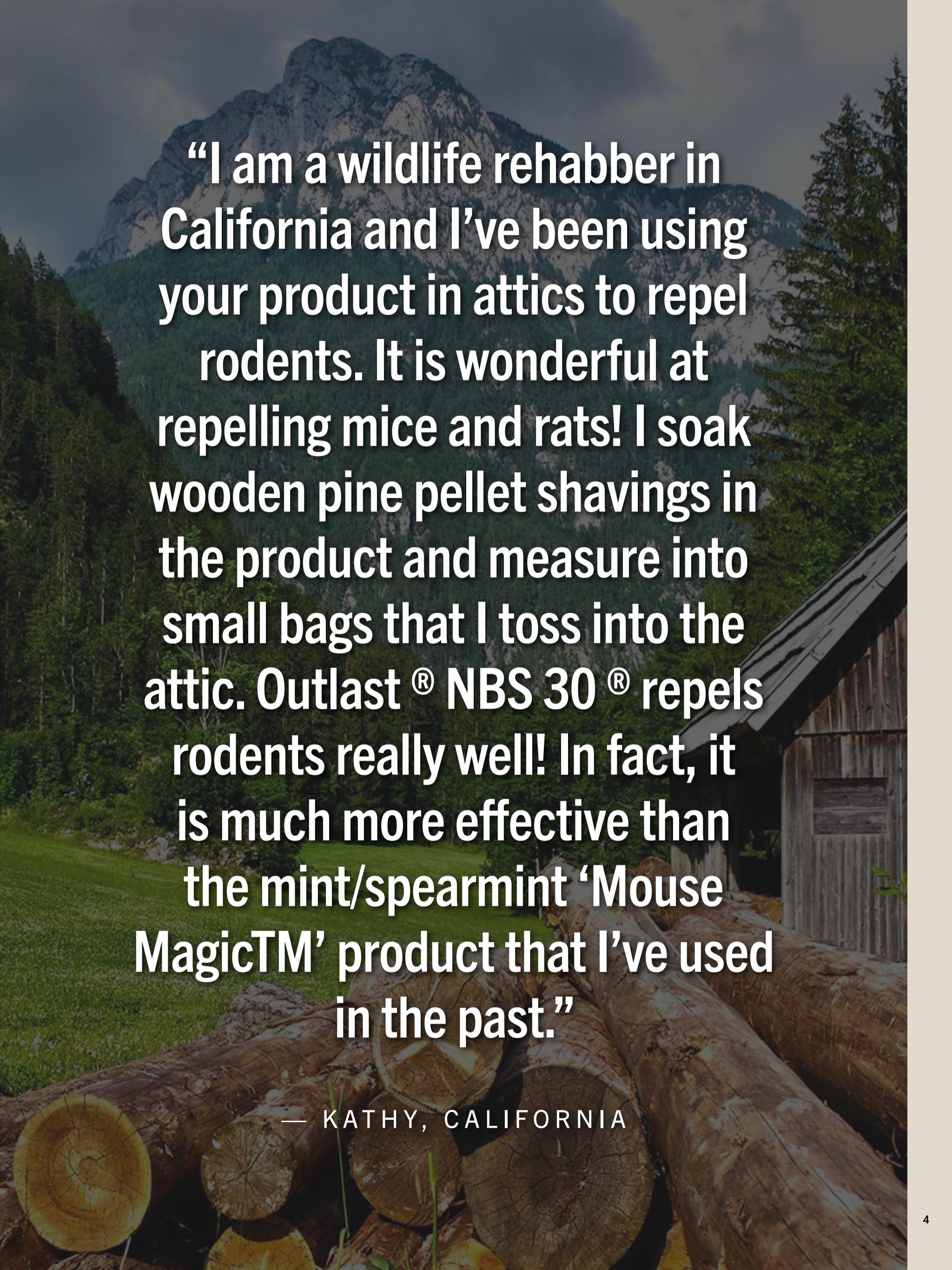
INTRO



You love your log home, but insects love it too. They might be small, but they can be frightening and intimidating and eventually do some pretty impressive damage. The presence of insects in the wood often invites birds and rodents looking for a quick meal. All types of wood used for building log homes are vulnerable to certain insects. That's why every log homeowner's regular maintenance plan should include checking for signs that insects have invaded their territory.

Start by walking around your home's exterior and interior, looking for evidence of carpenter ants, termites, ladybugs, wasps, dirt daubers, carpenter bees, or beetles. Signs can include concentrated, irregular-sized holes, small piles of sawdust, mud tunnels, or seeing the actual insects themselves. If you're wondering what to look for, here are a few common types of insects that log homeowners should watch out for.



A photograph of a stack of large logs in a forest. In the background, a large, rugged mountain is visible under a cloudy sky. The logs are weathered and brown, with some green moss or lichen on the ends. The scene is natural and rustic.

“I am a wildlife rehabber in California and I’ve been using your product in attics to repel rodents. It is wonderful at repelling mice and rats! I soak wooden pine pellet shavings in the product and measure into small bags that I toss into the attic. Outlast® NBS 30® repels rodents really well! In fact, it is much more effective than the mint/spearmint ‘Mouse Magic™’ product that I’ve used in the past.”

— KATHY, CALIFORNIA

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TYPES OF WOOD BURROWING & NESTING INSECTS

Here are some of the most common types of wood-burrowing insects you may find in your log home.

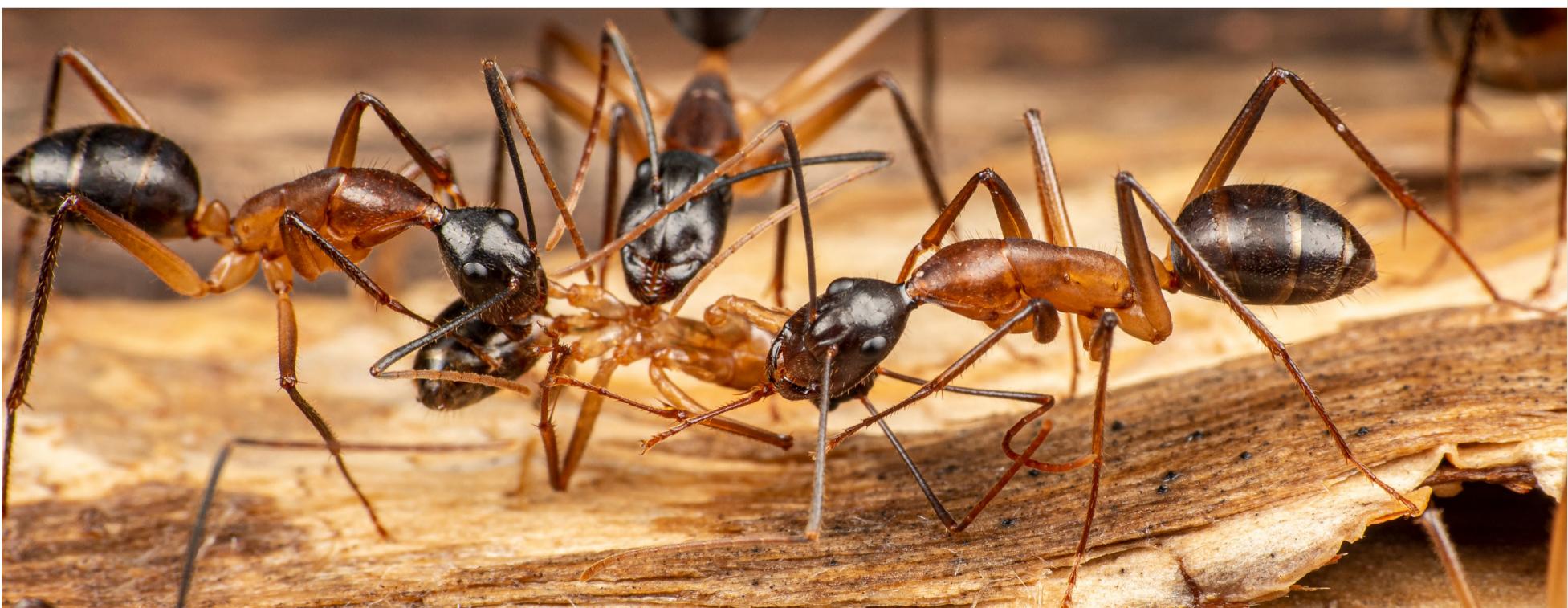
1. Carpenter Ants

Carpenter ants often live between the logs in log homes. They thrive in areas where the wood has absorbed water from leaks or condensation because the wood becomes porous and easy to chew through.

Carpenter ants don't eat wood but will chew through it and then discard it, damaging your logs. Here are three signs of carpenter ants:

- Wet areas between logs,
- Piles of coarse-looking sawdust,
- Tunnels and holes with ants coming in and out of them.

Left to thrive, these colonies can damage a home. Be sure to call a specialist to investigate an invasion, get the ants out, and repair any damages.



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TYPES OF WOOD BURROWING
& NESTING INSECTS

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2. Carpenter Bees

Carpenter bees look like typical bumblebees, but they love using logs as a place to build their nest tunnels. Signs of carpenter bees are perfectly round holes about a 1/2 inch in diameter bored into the wood. Unseen is the 90-degree turn that is chewed out which runs laterally up to 22' in length although 18' is quite typical.

While one bee may not seem like a problem, bees will return to the same area year after year, expanding and building more entrances and tunnels. This weakens and damages logs from the inside.

Leaving the holes in the tunnels open lets rain and moisture seep deep into the logs. Plugging holes with thicker finishes or exterior caulk alone will NOT stop these wood-damaging insects. Check every year for returning bees to stay on top of the problem. See Chapter 4 for instructions on how to kill off a family of carpenter bees before painting or staining with **NBS 30®** additive.



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TYPES OF WOOD BURROWING
& NESTING INSECTS

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3. Powderpost Beetles

Powderpost beetles are wood-boring insects that are considered second only to termites for their ability to damage wood and log homes. But if you monitor your log home and use the right treatments and sealants, you can stay ahead of them. Powderpost Beetle eggs can lay dormant in new lumber and not hatch for as long as 12 years or more! After initial construction use of the penetrating stain and rot control treatment, **Outlast® Q8 Log Oil** will ensure future generations of powderpost beetles will not lay eggs again. Any existing eggs that hatch will gnaw their way out and die - never to mature and return to lay another batch.

Signs of invasion include the following:

- Clustered holes
- Sawdust piles
- Small beetles or larvae

These beetles lay their eggs only on unfinished wood since the larvae cannot bore through varnish or paint. You can see why it's essential to treat your wood correctly right from the start.



A photograph of a wooden deck with a railing, leading up to a building with a dark roof and light-colored walls. The lighting suggests it's either dawn or dusk.

I am a no-kill nuisance wildlife control operator, as well as a wildlife rehabber specializing in critical care/triage work with all species of native wildlife. I have been using your NBS 30® product as a mammal repellent to humanely remove animals from locations where they aren't wanted, instead of the old ammonia stand-by as it is far too lethal to babies and can blind both young and adults.

NBS 30® is a WONDERFUL AND AMAZING product (that) works well to repel raccoons, squirrels, woodpeckers, woodchucks, moles, mice, rats, skunks. Thanks.

— JENNIFER WEIFFENBACH, STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESCUE. CONNECTICUT

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ALL-NATURAL NBS 30®

Outlast® NBS 30® is a 100% all-natural botanical mixture designed for use as an additive in exterior coatings. It deters and inhibits insects from burrowing through or crawling on exterior coatings. **NBS 30®** is appropriate for residential applications including log homes and decks. Or, it's great for commercial uses like dairy facilities, drive-in restaurants, golf courses, parks, playgrounds, poultry houses, recreational areas, schools, landscape areas, zoos, etc.

Here are some of the main characteristics of NBS 30® additive:

- It effectively controls crawling and nesting on painted or stained surfaces when added to paints and stains.
- It deters ants, cockroaches, beetles, mites, spiders, fleas, ticks, silverfish, dirt daubers, ladybugs, stink bugs, bees, and wasps from crawling on, nesting on, or burrowing through treated surfaces.
- It is soluble or dispersible in commercial oil and water-based exterior paints and stains.
- It is dispersible in plain water for a gentle, botanical approach to temporary nuisance insect control, making it excellent for carports and garages for temporary insect repellency.
- It is a biologically natural product 100% derived from plant extracts and compounds from the GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe compounds) list.
- It is NOT an insecticide. Instead, it is a natural insect repellent. When used as directed, it is non-phytotoxic and will not harm plants or turf. It is safe to use where pets or birds have contact and has demonstrated extremely low mammalian toxicity. This product is VOC compliant in all 50 states. It is protected by US Patent #7514102 and #7858127.
- It is NOT EFFECTIVE against termites or any other wood ingesting insect. Therefore, do NOT use this product for termite control.

“I am pleased to endorse your product. As an Entomologist, I had tried many methods of ridding my log home of carpenter bees and carpenter ants. I mixed your NBS 30® additive with stain four years ago after I stripped the old stain from the logs. In those four years, I have found only a single carpenter bee hole and that was behind a drain pipe that was not coated with the stain NBS 30® mix! Thank you for such a great product!”

— TIM YOHO. LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY, PENNSYLVANIA.



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HOW TO APPLY

Add the entire contents of the 16-ounce container of **NBS 30®** additive to a five-gallon bucket of exterior paint/stain or water. Or add at a rate of 3.2 liquid ounces per gallon of coating. Note that a small amount of dish soap may help emulsify when mixing with plain water. Mix thoroughly and occasionally stir to ensure uniform dispersion. Apply coatings according to directions on the paint/stain bucket label. Brush, spray, or roller applications are all suitable.

The effective life of this additive varies depending upon a variety of conditions, including the type of coating used, surface prep procedures, and climatic conditions. Two or more coats may be necessary for carpenter bee control.

In the event of a carpenter bee infestation (existing holes with lateral tunnel formation), **ALWAYS** “ream out” the tunnels with a long wire and insert powdered poison insect killer inside the entry. Wait several days and then caulk and/or plug the holes and paint. The curing time of the coating will increase slightly by adding the **NBS 30®**, especially in oil-based systems, but the color will be unaffected.

Keep out of lakes and streams, as this product is toxic to fish. Also, keep from areas designated for commercial honey bee farming. Avoid contact with eyes, skin, and clothing, and wash skin and clothes thoroughly with soap and water if contact does occur. Avoid breathing vapors or spray mist, and remember that this product is harmful if swallowed.



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SAFETY DATA

Caution: Outlast Products recommends the use of eye protection and gloves.

Storage and Disposal: Store in closed containers between 50-120F. Use in well-ventilated areas. Do not reuse empty containers. Keep out of lakes and streams. Product is toxic to fish. Consult the SDS (Safety Data Sheet) for complete details.

For spill, leak, or medical emergency call Infotrac (800) 535-5053

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