

## COPPER NAPHTHENATE

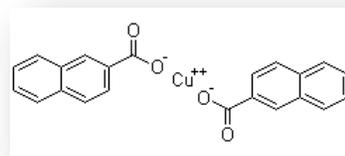
As our department investigates pesticide related illnesses, more than one case has come to our attention, involving the active ingredient: copper naphthenate. Applicators have used this product on wood exposed to moisture, inside the house. ***Using these products inside the house is not an approved use.*** While it is very effective in preventing wood decay, it also has a disagreeable odor that does not dissipate over time. Most of the reported cases have resulted in the residents having to vacate the property. The only solution that we have found is the removal of those treated boards. This is very expensive, and often times not practical. Remember that with all pesticide products: Read the Label and The Label is the Law!



If you do hire a professional to apply chemicals, be sure you are informed about the products they will be using. Discuss with your hired company the method and materials used. The company should provide you a copy of the product label. Also, be sure that the company is licensed to perform that service.

## HISTORY IN REGULATION

Applicators use copper naphthenate as a fungicide and wood preservative to control fungal decay and insect attack. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) placed products containing copper naphthenate into reevaluation on December 28, 1995, based upon concerns regarding use of the product indoors. DPR's Worker Health and Safety Branch received a number of reports of illnesses following exposure to the indoor use of pesticide products containing copper naphthenate. The illnesses appear to be associated with inhalation exposure resulting in nausea, dizziness, and headaches. In some cases, the structure could not be occupied for an extended period of time following treatment.



In February 1996, DPR discussed its concerns regarding copper naphthenate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Based upon DPR's information, U.S. EPA decided that indoor use of copper naphthenate was of national concern, and therefore, best addressed by U.S. EPA. U.S. EPA met with representatives of the Naphthenate Salts Research Task Force (Task Force) to discuss this issue. During that discussion, U.S. EPA expanded the issue to include pesticide products containing zinc naphthenate.

In January 1997, U.S. EPA received a letter stating that the Task Force would not be supporting continued indoor use of either copper or zinc naphthenate pesticide products. The manufacturers revised the labels of their products to delete all indoor uses and to add the statement "For Exterior Use Only." In addition, a statement has been added requiring the use of respirators during prolonged or

frequent use of the product. DPR reviewed the amended labels and sent comments to U.S. EPA. DPR cannot accept the amended labels until they have been accepted by U.S. EPA. Registrants have amended the labels of 18 currently registered copper naphthenate to comply with U.S. EPA and DPR requirements.

*Excerpt from: California Notice 99-6: Semiannual report summarizing the Reevaluation Status of Pesticide Products During the Period of 1/1/99 through 6/30/99*

*SEE ALSO Termin-8 Wood Preservation (Copper Naphthenate)/ Crawl Space Considered Indoor Use/ Label Interpretation*