

1 Chemical product and company identification

Product name: *Tim-bor* Insecticide
Grade: Technical
Product use: Termiticide, insecticide, fungicide
Chemical formula: $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_8\text{O}_{13}\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$
Chemical name/synonyms: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate
Chemical family: Inorganic borates
CAS registry number: 12280-03-4
EPA pesticide Reg. No.: 1624-39

MANUFACTURER:

U.S. Borax Inc.
26877 Tourney Road
Valencia, CA 91355-1847

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

24 Hr. Medical Info. Service: (800) 228-5635 Ext. 144
Chemtrec (Spills): (800) 424-9300

(Refer to Section 15 for TSCA/DSL Chemical inventory listing)

2 Composition/information on ingredients

This product contains greater than 98 percent (%) disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_8\text{O}_{13}\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, which is hazardous under the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard and under the

Canadian Controlled Products Regulations of the Hazardous Products Act (WHMIS), based on animal chronic toxicity studies. Refer to Sections 3 and 11 for details on hazards.

3 Hazard identification

Emergency overview

Tim-bor Insecticide is a white, odorless, powdered substance that is not flammable, combustible, or explosive and has low acute oral and dermal toxicity.

Potential ecological effects

Large amounts of *Tim-bor* Insecticide can be harmful to plants and other species. Therefore, releases to the environment should be minimized.

Potential health effects

Routes of exposure: Inhalation is the most significant route of exposure in occupational and other settings. Dermal exposure is not usually a concern because *Tim-bor* Insecticide is poorly absorbed through intact skin.

Inhalation: Occasional mild irritation effects to nose and throat may occur from inhalation of *Tim-bor* Insecticide dust at levels greater than 10 mg/m^3 .

Eye contact: *Tim-bor* Insecticide is non-irritating to eyes in normal use.

Skin contact: *Tim-bor* Insecticide does not cause irritation to intact skin.

Ingestion: Products containing *Tim-bor* Insecticide are not intended for ingestion. *Tim-bor* Insecticide has a low acute toxicity. Small amounts (e.g., a teaspoonful) swallowed accidentally are not likely to cause effects; swallowing amounts larger than that may cause gastrointestinal symptoms.

Cancer: *Tim-bor* Insecticide is not a known carcinogen.

Reproductive/developmental: Animal ingestion studies in several species, at high doses, indicate that borates cause reproductive and developmental effects. A human study of occupational exposure to borate dust showed no adverse effect on reproduction.

Target organs: No target organ has been identified in humans. High dose animal ingestion studies indicate the testes are the target organs in male animals.

Signs and symptoms of exposure: Symptoms of accidental over-exposure to *Tim-bor* Insecticide might include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, with delayed effects of skin redness and peeling. These symptoms have been associated with the accidental over-exposure to the chemically related substance boric acid by ingestion or absorption through large areas of damaged skin.

Refer to Section 11 for details on toxicological data.

4 First aid measures

Inhalation: If symptoms such as nose or throat irritation are observed, remove person to fresh air.

Eye contact: Use eye wash fountain or fresh water to cleanse eye. If irritation persists for more than 30 minutes, seek medical attention.

Skin contact: No treatment necessary because non-irritating.

Ingestion: Swallowing small quantities (one teaspoon) will cause no harm to healthy adults. If larger amounts are swallowed, give two glasses of water to drink and seek medical attention.

Note to physicians: Observation only is required for adult ingestion in the range of 4-8 grams of *Tim-bor* Insecticide. For ingestion of larger amounts, maintain adequate kidney function and force fluids. Gastric lavage is recommended for symptomatic patients only. Hemodialysis should be reserved for massive acute ingestion or patients with renal failure. Boron analyses of urine or blood are only useful for documenting exposure and should not be used to evaluate severity of poisoning or to guide treatment¹. Refer to Section 11 for details.

5 Fire fighting measures

General hazard: None, because *Tim-bor* Insecticide is not flammable, combustible or explosive. The product is itself a flame retardant.

Extinguishing media: Any fire extinguishing media may be used on nearby fires.

Flammability classification (29 CFR 1910.1200): Non-flammable solid.

6 Accidental release measures

General: *Tim-bor* Insecticide is a water-soluble white powder that may, at high concentrations, cause damage to trees or vegetation by root absorption. (Refer to Ecological information, Section 12, for specific information.)

Land spill: Vacuum, shovel or sweep up *Tim-bor* Insecticide and place in containers for disposal in accordance with applicable local regulations. Avoid contamination of water bodies during cleanup and disposal.

Spillage into water: Where possible, remove any intact containers from the water. Advise local water authority that none of the affected water should be used for irrigation or for the abstraction of potable water until natural dilution returns the boron value to its normal environmental background level. (Refer to Sections 12, 13 and 15 for additional information.)

Tim-bor Insecticide is a non-hazardous waste when spilled or disposed of, as defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations (40 CFR 261). (Refer to Regulatory information, Section 15, for additional references.)

7 Handling and storage

General: No special handling precautions are required, but dry, indoor storage is recommended. To maintain package integrity and to minimize caking of the product, bags should be handled on a first-in, first-out basis. Good housekeeping procedures should be followed to minimize dust generation and accumulation.

Storage temperature: Ambient

Storage pressure: Atmospheric

Special sensitivity: Moisture (caking)

8 Exposure controls/personal protection

Engineering controls: Use local exhaust ventilation to keep airborne concentrations of *Tim-bor* Insecticide dust below permissible exposure levels.

Personal protection: Refer to label for actual regulatory personal protection requirements. Where airborne concentrations are expected to exceed exposure limits (e.g. confined spaces), NIOSH/MSHA certified respirators must be used. Eye protection, protective clothing and waterproof gloves may also be warranted under certain high exposure conditions.

Occupational exposure limits: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate (*Tim-bor* Insecticide) is treated by OSHA, Cal OSHA and ACGIH as "Particulate Not Otherwise Classified" or "Nuisance Dust". The OSHA/PEL (Permissible Exposure Level) is 15 mg/m³ total dust and 5 mg/m³ respirable dust. The Cal OSHA/PEL is 10 mg/m³. The ACGIH/TLV (Threshold Limit Value) is 10 mg/m³.

9 Physical and chemical properties

Appearance: White, odorless, powder

Bulk density: 320 to 480 kg/m³

Vapor pressure: Negligible @ 20°C

Solubility in water: 9.7% @ 20°C; 34.3% @ 50°C

Melting point: 815°C

pH @ 20°C: 8.3 (3.0% solution)

7.6 (10.0% solution)

Molecular weight: 412.52

10 Stability and reactivity

General: *Tim-bor* Insecticide is a stable product.

Incompatible materials and conditions to avoid:

Reaction with strong reducing agents, such as metal hydrides or alkali metals, will generate hydrogen gas, which could create an explosive hazard.

Hazardous decomposition: None.

11 Toxicological information

Acute toxicity

Ingestion: Low acute oral toxicity; LD₅₀ in rats is 2,550 mg/kg of body weight.

Skin/dermal: Low acute dermal toxicity; LD₅₀ in rabbits is greater than 2,000 mg/kg of body weight. *Tim-bor* Insecticide is poorly absorbed through intact skin.

Inhalation: Low acute inhalation toxicity; LC₅₀ in rats is greater than 2.0 mg/L (or g/m³).

Skin irritation: Non-irritant.

Eye irritation: Draize test in rabbits produced mild eye irritation effects. Years of occupational exposure to *Tim-bor* Insecticide indicates no adverse effects on human eye. Therefore *Tim-bor* Insecticide is not considered to be a human eye irritant in normal industrial use.

Sensitization: *Tim-bor* Insecticide is not a skin sensitizer.

Other

Reproductive/developmental toxicity: Animal feeding studies in rat, mouse and dog, at high doses, have demonstrated effects on fertility and testes². Studies with the chemically related boric acid in the rat, mouse and rabbit, at high doses, demonstrate developmental effects on the fetus, including fetal weight loss and minor skeletal variations^{3,4}. The doses administered were many times in excess of those to which humans would normally be exposed⁵.

Carcinogenicity/mutagenicity: No evidence of carcinogenicity in mice⁶. No mutagenic activity was observed for boric acid in a battery of short-term mutagenicity assays.

Human data: Human epidemiological studies show no increase in pulmonary disease in occupational populations with chronic exposures to boric acid dust and sodium borate dust. A recent epidemiology study under the conditions of normal occupational exposure to borate dusts indicated no effect on fertility⁷.

12 Ecological information

Ecotoxicity data

General: Boron (B) is the element in disodium octaborate tetrahydrate (*Tim-bor* Insecticide) which is used by convention to report borate product ecological effects. It occurs naturally in seawater at an average concentration of 5 mg B/L and generally occurs in freshwater at concentrations up to 1 mg B/L. In dilute aqueous solutions the predominant boron species present is undissociated boric acid. To convert disodium octaborate tetrahydrate into the equivalent boron (B) content, multiply by 0.2096.

Phytotoxicity: Boron is an essential micronutrient for healthy growth of plants; however, it can be harmful to boron sensitive plants (e.g. grass and ornamentals) in high quantities. Care should be taken to minimize the amount of *Tim-bor* Insecticide accidentally spilled and released to the environment.

Algal toxicity:

Green algae, *Scenedesmus subspicatus*
96-hr EC₁₀ = 24 mg B/L[†]

Invertebrate toxicity⁸:

Daphnids, *Daphnia magna straus*
24-hr EC₅₀ = 242 mg B/L[†]

Test substance: [†] sodium tetraborate

Fish toxicity:

Seawater⁹:

Dab, *Limanda limanda*
96-hr LC₅₀ = 74 mg B/L[†]

Freshwater¹⁰:

Rainbow trout, *S. gairdneri* (embryo-larval stage)
24-day LC₅₀ = 88 mg B/L[†]
32-day LC₅₀ = 54 mg B/L[†]

Goldfish, *Carassius auratus* (embryo-larval stage)
7-day LC₅₀ = 65 mg B/L[†]
3-day LC₅₀ = 71 mg B/L[†]

Environmental fate data

Persistence/degradation: Boron is naturally occurring and ubiquitous in the environment. *Tim-bor* Insecticide decomposes in the environment to natural borate.

Octanol/water partition coefficient: No value. In aqueous solution disodium octaborate tetrahydrate is converted substantially into undissociated boric acid.

Soil mobility: *Tim-bor* Insecticide is soluble in water and is leachable through normal soil.

13 Disposal considerations

Disposal guidance: Small quantities of *Tim-bor* Insecticide can usually be disposed of at landfill sites. No special disposal treatment is required, but local authorities should be consulted about any specific local requirements. Tonnage quantities of product are not recommended to be sent to landfills. Such product should, if possible, be used for an appropriate application.

RCRA (40 CFR 261): *Tim-bor* Insecticide is not listed under any sections of the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

NPRI (Canada): *Tim-bor* Insecticide is not listed on the Canadian National Pollutant Release Inventory.

Refer to Section 15 for additional regulatory information.

14 Transport information

DOT hazardous classification: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate (*Tim-bor* Insecticide) is not regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and is therefore not considered a hazardous material/substance.

TDG Canadian transportation: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate (*Tim-bor* Insecticide) is not regulated under Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG).

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International transportation: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate (*Tim-bor* Insecticide) has no UN Number, and is not regulated under international rail, road, water or air transport regulations.

15 Regulatory information

OSHA/Cal OSHA: This MSDS document meets the requirements of both OSHA (29 CFR 1910.1200) and Cal OSHA (Title 8 CCR 5194 (g)) hazard communication standards. Refer to Section 8 for regulatory exposure limits.

WHMIS classification: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate (*Tim-bor* Insecticide) is classified as Class D- Division 2A under Canadian WHMIS guidelines.

FIFRA: *Tim-bor* Insecticide is registered with the EPA (EPA Reg. No. 1624-39), in accordance with Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as a pesticide product. Refer to EPA approved product label for additional product hazard and precautionary information.

Canadian PCP: *Tim-bor* Insecticide is registered with Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) under the Pest Control Products Act (PCP) (PCP Reg. No. 24091).

Chemical inventory listing: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate (*Tim-bor* Insecticide), 12280-03-4, appears on several chemical inventory lists (including the EPA TSCA inventory, Canadian DSL, European EINECS and Korean lists) under the CAS No. representing the anhydrous form of this inorganic salt.

U.S. EPA TSCA Inventory	12008-41-2
Canadian DSL	12008-41-2
EINECS	234-541-0
South Korea	9312-3213

RCRA: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate is not listed as a hazardous waste under any sections of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or regulations (40 CFR 261 *et seq.*).

California Proposition 65: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate (*Tim-bor* Insecticide) is not listed on the Proposition 65 list of carcinogens or reproductive toxicants.

Superfund: CERCLA/SARA. Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate is not listed under CERCLA or its 1986 amendments, SARA, including substances listed under Section 313 of SARA, Toxic Chemicals, 42 USC 11023, 40 CFR 372.65, Section 302 of SARA, Extremely Hazardous Substances, 42 USC 11002, 40 CFR 355, or the CERCLA Hazardous Substances list, 42 USC 9604, 40 CFR 302.

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate is not regulated under the SDWA, 42 USC 300g-1, 40 CFR 141 *et seq.* Consult state and local regulations for possible water quality advisories regarding boron compounds.

Clean Water Act (CWA) (Federal Water Pollution Control Act): 33 USC 1251 *et seq.*

- Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate (*Tim-bor* Insecticide) is not itself a discharge covered by any water quality criteria of Section 304 of the CWA, 33 USC 1314.
- It is not on the Section 307 List of Priority Pollutants, 33 USC 1317, 40 CFR 129.
- It is not on the Section 311 List of Hazardous Substances, 33 USC 1321, 40 CFR 116.

Canadian drinking water guideline: An "Interim Maximum Acceptable Concentration" (IMAC) for boron is currently set at 5 mg B/L.

IARC: The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) (a unit of the World Health Organization) does not list or categorize disodium octaborate tetrahydrate as a carcinogen.

NTP Biennial Report on Carcinogens: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate is not listed.

OSHA carcinogen: Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate is not listed.

Clean Air Act (Montreal Protocol): *Tim-bor* Insecticide was not manufactured with and does not contain any Class I or Class II ozone depleting substances.

16 Other information

References

- Litovitz T L, Norman S A, Veltri J C, Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers Data Collection System. *Am. J. Emerg. Med.* **4:** 427-458 (1986).
- Weir R J, Fisher R S, *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* **23:** 351-364 (1972).
- Fail *et al.*, *Fund. Appl. Toxicol.* **17:** 225-239 (1991).
- Price *et al.*, *J. Am. Coll. Toxicol.* **14:** (2), 173 (Abst. P-17) (1995).
- Murray F J, *Regul. Toxicol. Pharmacol.* (Dec. 1995).
- National Toxicology Program (NTP)—Toxicology and carcinogenesis studies of boric acid in B6C3F₁ mice, Tech. Report Ser. No. 324, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. NIH Publ. No. 88-2580 (1987).
- Whorton *et al.*, *Occup. Environ. Med.* **51:** 761-767 (1994).
- Schöberl *et al.*, *Tenside Surfactants Detergents* **25:** 99-107 (1988).
- Hugman S J, Mance G, Water Research Centre Report 616-M (1983).
- Butterwick L, de Oude N, Raymond K, *Ecotoxicol. Environ. Safety* **17:** 339-371 (1989).

For general information on the toxicology of inorganic borates, see Patty's Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology, 4th Ed. Vol. II. (1994), Chap. 42, Boron; ECETOC Tech. Report No. 63 (1995).

Product label text hazard information:

Refer to EPA (United States) or PMRA (Canada) approved product specimen label for additional product hazard and precautionary information.

For further information contact:

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