

# ASK@



S A W M I L L M A G . C O M

**Q** Should I use Timbor or Bora-care as an insecticide on my lumber to prevent termites, beetles, etc., in air drying?



**A** Timbor is a powder that is mixed with water. Bora-care is already mixed with water and glycol and is designed for drier wood application. Both use the same active ingredient—disodium octaborate tetrahydrate; Timbor is 98% and Bora-care is 40%. Both require dilution with a lot of water. Both have technical information, use instructions, and risks noted in the MSDS.

- [http://nisuscorp.com/images/uploads/documents-specimen-labels/label\\_sds\\_timbor.pdf](http://nisuscorp.com/images/uploads/documents-specimen-labels/label_sds_timbor.pdf)
- [http://nisuscorp.com/images/uploads/documents-specimen-labels/label\\_sds\\_boracare.pdf](http://nisuscorp.com/images/uploads/documents-specimen-labels/label_sds_boracare.pdf)

Application Summary: Timbor is applied as a 15% solution to green, nearly green, or partly dry wood. To get deep penetration, several coats on all surfaces may be needed. This means that the lumber cannot be sticker-stacked immediately after sawing. The MSDS states that the treated lumber “must be protected from excess rain” as the outer treatment can be leached away. A roof with a large overhang or a shed must be used for air-drying. The leached chemical can build up in the soil in an air-drying yard and potentially run off into a stream and kill fish.

It is very rare for anyone to use these relatively safe insecticide products on air drying lumber. Insect risks are very small in air drying, especially in a well maintained, clean yard. Use on green lumber is not clearly approved in the MSDS.

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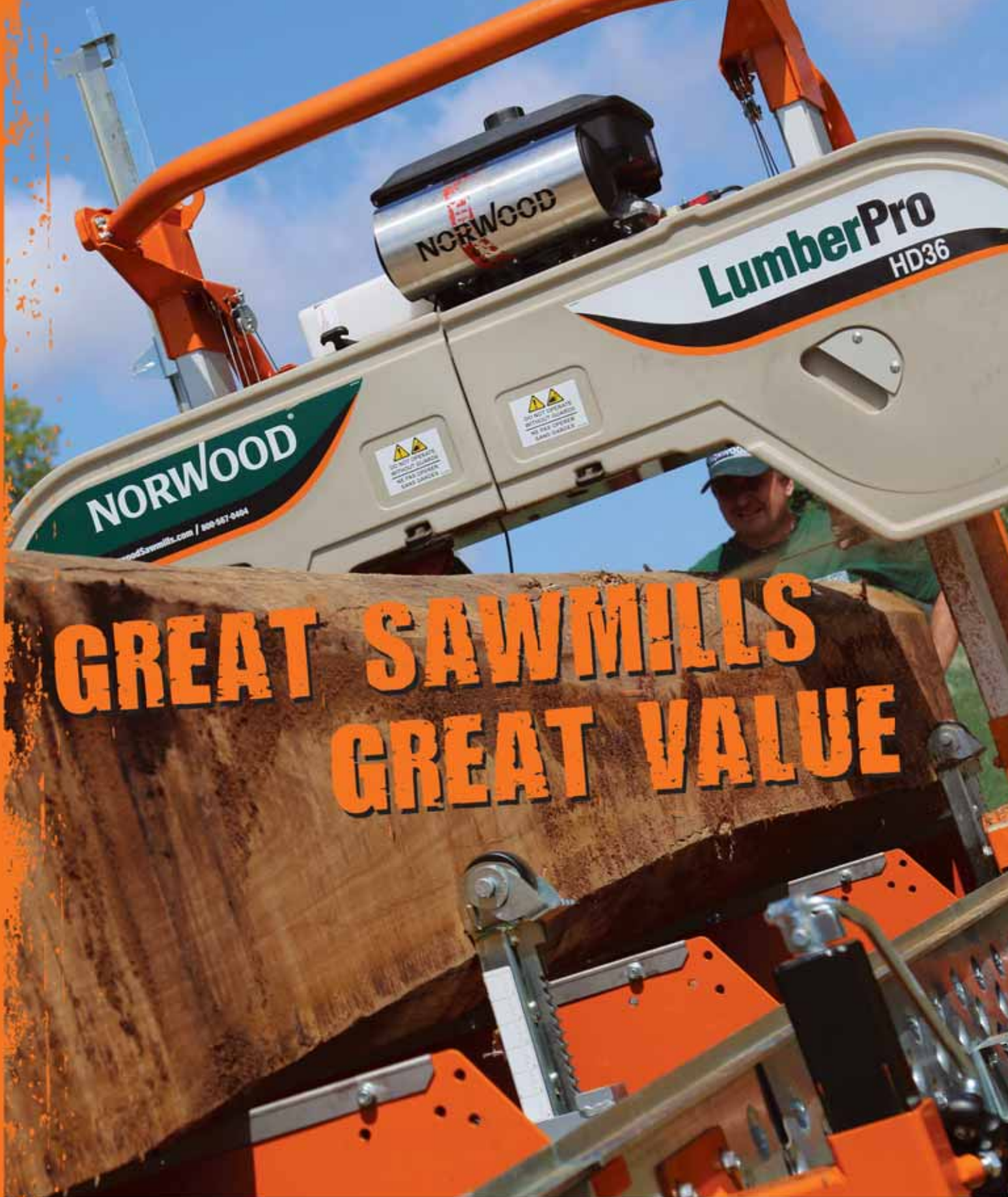
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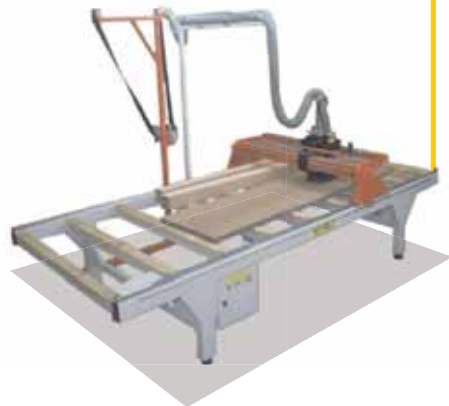
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