27034 December 1990 (PW)

Properties

® = Registered trademark

Resistance of expanded materials to animal and vegetable pests

Styropor is expanded polystyrene, a substance of no nutritional value to plants and animals, including micro-organisms. However, it offers almost no resistance to rodents and many insects, which may gnaw through it when in search of food.

Several kinds of insect also appreciate the thermal insulation provided by expanded material made from Styropor. For instance, larvae of moths of the genera Ephestia and Anagasta, which often infest food stores, may enter expanded Styropor in order to pupate. Other insects, like digger wasps and termites, burrow into the material in order to deposit their eggs or to store food (aphids and other insects which have been paralysed by the wasp).

Preventive measures

An effective way to prevent insects boring into the material is to coat vulnerable surfaces with cement slurry (consisting of cement, sand and water) to which a polymer dispersion has been added to give better adhesion.

The most proven barrier in preventing rodents burrowing into the material is, likewise, an appropriate coating. This can be achieved by a layer of fabric-reinforced plaster or the attachment of some suitable cladding.

If, however, none of these mechanical barriers provide effective long-term protection against attack, the prophylactic use of gases and insecticides may be preferable.

Note

The information submitted in this publication is based on our current knowledge and experience. In view of the many factors that may affect processing and application, these data do not relieve processors of the responsibility of carrying out their own tests and experiments; neither do they imply any legally binding assurance of certain properties or of suitability for a specific purpose. It is the responsibility of those to whom we supply our products to ensure that any proprietary rights and existing laws and legislation are observed.