

People
are
talking . . .



about fire retardants



With the devastating wildfires California has been experiencing, and hundreds of billions of dollars in real estate located in areas prone to burn, people are exploring new avenues in protecting their homes. Fire retardants have become readily available for public use. Some of the more popular brand names are Barricade, Thermo-Gel and Fortify. While they all claim to be the best defense in protecting property, you need to educate yourself when looking at what will work best for your situation. The information that follows is material we found on simple internet searches and manufacturer websites. We encourage you to do your own research. Some questions you may ask include:

- Is application easy?
- How far in advance can it be applied?
- How long after application is it effective?
- Will it cause damage to the application areas?
- Is it harmful to people, animals, and/or the environment?
- Is application fast?
- What is the cost?
- What is the shelf life?
- Is it easy to remove?

Barricade

Barricade Fire Gel Retardant is now available to homeowners who can apply the water/gel coating on their own property in front of an approaching wildfire, before retreating to a safe area. When mixed with water at the end of a garden hose, superabsorbent polymers in the gel concentrate trap water molecules and suspend them in millions of tiny “bubbles.” Sprayed onto the flammable surfaces of roofs, windows, eaves and walls of a house, vehicles, or propane tanks, a “wet blanket” wrap of Barricade Fire Gel Retardant can be applied up to 24 hours before an approaching wildfire. This protective coating can last for up to 24 hours or longer, depending on weather conditions (temperature, wind and relative humidity). Misting the coating with additional water spray can extend the protection times. Barricade can be washed off with plain water after the fire danger has passed. Be cautious when walking through the gel retardant, it becomes very slippery.

[Information Source](#)

Thermo-Gel

Thermo-Gel® is a gel concentrate, that when added to water, transforms water into a fire preventing and heat absorbing gel. This gel adheres to any kind of surface, even to vertical window panes and forms a protective

layer of gel that cools and protects objects from heating, charring and flame impingement. This gel can also be used for bringing fires under control more quickly. When applied at the proper amount, Thermo-Gel® will protect a structure for several hours. The cooling effect is provided by the evaporation of water from the gel. As long as there is still a gel layer on the object, it will remain protected. Strong winds and very high temperatures will decrease the protection time. It can be washed off with a strong stream of water pressure. In case of stubborn residues or large amounts of gel, treatment with regular household salt will help. Be cautious when walking through the gel retardant, it becomes very slippery.

[Information Source](#)

Fortify

Perimeter Solutions Fortify provides season-long preventive protection against wildfires. It can protect against wildfire throughout the peak fire season with a single annual treatment at the beginning of the season. Fortify effectively coats and maintains retardant on vegetation and infrastructure assets, providing protection against ignitions even through weathering, rain or high winds. In independent trials, Fortify showed the ability to almost stop the spread of fire completely, even after half an inch of simulated rain was placed on the vegetation and allowed to weather for two months. This product can be sprayed ahead of fire season or even during an oncoming fire threat with standard application equipment.

[Information Source](#)

[Article on Fortify](#)