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than zero
carbon
footprint?

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ours.

Weathertex and Termites

An extensive evaluation of the susceptibility of Weathertex to termite attack was conducted by the Research and Development laboratory at Raymond Terrace from 1963 through to 1979.

A field-testing procedure known as the "Graveyard Test", developed by the CSIRO (Gay et al., 1957) was used. In this procedure, a suitable termite mound was located in a forest and samples of the board under test were attached to susceptible timber "bait blocks" buried in a trench around the mound. The actual board samples were not in contact with the ground, but were covered to exclude light and maintain moisture, thus encouraging termite attack. The samples were inspected every three months for up to three years. The species of termite was identified as *N.exitiosus*. A large range of wallboard and timber products was tested.

In comparing the Weathertex product (as it is still made today) with common timber species, the following results were obtained:

- Blackbutt (*E.pilularis*) – DESTROYED
- Red mahogany (*E.resinifera*) – SIGNIFICANT ATTACK
- Weathertex – SURFACE NIBBLES ONLY

It is concluded from these tests that Weathertex does not attract termites and is not a preferred food. It is not claimed that Weathertex is "termite proof". It could be attacked if left in ground contact for a long period of time. However, if the requirements of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) are followed, the use of Weathertex as cladding in a timber-framed construction will not increase the risk of termite attack.

The reason for the superior performance of Weathertex in these tests lies in its process of manufacture. Durable hardwood timber species comprise the raw material; this is subjected to high pressure steam during the fiberising process, which removes most of the hemicellulose, the easiest timber component for termites to digest.

Weathertex should not be used in contact with the ground. Our fixing instructions state that there should be at least 150mm clearance between the bottom edge of Weathertex Weatherboards and paved surfaces which are exposed to the weather and at least 225mm clearance to unprotected ground.