

Toxicity Information of Termidor

Numerous tests are required by EPA to register a pesticide. A product's material safety data sheet (MSDS) contains results from certain of these tests relating to the acute toxicity of a product. For oral and dermal acute toxicities, results are expressed as the lethal dose required to kill 50% of test animals (LD₅₀ value) either administered orally or through dermal absorption. The value is expressed in mg of the material being tested per kg of body weight of the test animal. In these two studies, rats are used. The MSDS for Termidor Finished spray (0.06%) lists the following results for acute oral and dermal toxicity tests.

Acute Toxicity

Oral:

LD₅₀/rat >5000 mg/kg of body weight of the test animal

Dermal:

LD₅₀/rat >2000 mg/kg of body weight of the test animal

EPA has established four levels of toxicity based on LD₅₀ values. The toxicity category levels are listed below for acute oral and acute dermal toxicities.

Toxicity Study	Category I High Toxicity	Category II Moderate Toxicity	Category III Low Toxicity	Category IV Very Low Toxicity
Acute Oral	Up to and including 50 mg/kg	>50 thru 500 mg/kg	>500 thru 5000 mg/kg	>5000 mg/kg
Acute Dermal	Up to and including 200 mg/kg	>200 thru 2000 mg/kg	>2000 thru 5000 mg/kg	>5000 mg/kg

Note that as LD₅₀ values increase, toxicity decreases. From the table above, Termidor finished spray (0.06%) is listed in Category IV for acute oral toxicity and Category III for acute dermal toxicity.

It is useful to put these types of measurements in perspective. Below is a list of Acute Oral LD₅₀/Rat values for products/substances commonly used by people and found in many households.

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Rat Oral LD50 mg/kg</i>	<i>Use Pattern</i>
Nicotine	0.3	Constituent of tobacco
Acetone	14	Nail polish
Chlorox bleach	192	Cleaning agent
Caffeine	355	Coffee, soda
Ammonia	359	Cleaning agent
Ibuprofen	626	Advil pain relief
Aspirin	1000	Bayer pain relief
Termidor SC formulated product	>2000	Insecticide-termiticide
Table Salt	3750	Food additive
Termidor SC finished solution	>5000	Insecticide-termiticide
Ethylene glycol	8540	Anti-freeze

Although information in the table above gives a relative perspective of toxicity it should always be stressed that pesticides should never be assumed to be “safe”. It should also be stressed that when using pesticides, one should always adhere strictly to label directions and precautions.

Source: BASF