

SAPCA..... BUZZ



Understanding the Difference Between General Pest Control Treatments & Fumigation

In the pest control industry, terminology matters. One of the most common misunderstandings among the public is the use of the word “fumigation” as a general term for pest control. Although the term ‘Fumigation’ is widely used in our country, it has a very specific meaning and should not be confused with other pest control methods such as spraying or residual treatments.

At SAPCA we believe it is important to alert customers and the public on the correct use of pest control terminology, to avoid confusion and ensure best possible services rendered.

What is the difference between -
General Pest Control Spray Treatments and Fumigation

Pest Control Spray treatments, often referred to as residual treatments, are the most common forms of pest control used in homes, offices, restaurants, and other buildings.

Either a liquid sprays or bait or gels are applied to targeted surfaces such as walls, cupboards, skirtings, cracks, crevices, gardens, etc.

Once applied, the product leaves a residual effect, meaning it continues to work over a period of time. Pests come into contact with the treated surfaces and are controlled as a result. These treatments are therefore not ‘Fumigation’.

Spray or residual treatments are typically used for:

Cockroaches, Ants, Bedbugs, Flies, Fleas, Termites, Mosquitoes, and bait stations with rodent bait blocks for Rats or Mice.

Always ensure the Pest Control Operator has a valid license to do Pest Control services.

Fumigation is a process that involves a method of releasing gaseous chemicals or fumigants in an enclosed space or commodity, in a concentration and for a period of time sufficient to kill target pests. The process is usually applied to buildings, ships, soil, grain or other stored products. The gas diffuses through the air and penetrates cracks and crevices, wood packaging materials, stored products, etc. in order to reach pests that are otherwise hard to reach, and to kill all life stages of the pest. The procedure requires the area to be hermetically sealed and appropriate warning signs must be posted to restrict entry during treatment. After the exposure period, the site is thoroughly ventilated to ensure the treated area is safe for re-entry.

Only a licensed Pest Control Operator can perform fumigation, with the correct Field of Fumigation indicated on the PCO Certificate.

Always verify that the PCO license is valid.



Fumigation



Pest Control Treatments



SAPCA Roadshow 2026 Eastern Cape

We would like to invite you to our upcoming SAPCA Roadshow happening in Port Elizabeth.

Date: 14 May 2026

Venue: The The Willows
Holiday Resort, Marine Drive,
Gqeberha, PE

SAPCA QR code

To verify a SAPCA member, scan the qr code with your mobile device.

