



**CHALKMINE**

# ABSORBACIDE

*A finely powdered diatomite dust used for insect pest control and registered for use in grain storage.*



## WHAT IS ABSORBACIDE?

Absorbacide is the finest grade (0.05mm) of our specially processed diatomite. Diatomaceous earth, also known as diatomite has been mined from sedimentary layers deposited millions of years ago in a fresh water lake. It is light in weight, chalk like in appearance, very porous, and comprises siliceous fossils of plant algae. It consists primarily of amorphous silica as distinct from crystalline silica or quartz. Amorphous silica is much more soluble than crystalline silica and is not a health hazard.

## WHAT DOES ABSORBACIDE DO?

Absorbacide controls all economically important stored grain insect pests including weevils, beetles, borers, and moths. A single application provides 12 month protection against insect pests in:

- Stored products such as wheat, barley, rice, corn, sorghum, lentils, peas and other stored commodities.
- Warehouses and storage areas holding food products.
- Empty silos and grain handling machinery such as combine harvesters, belt conveyors and bucket elevators.

## HOW DOES ABSORBACIDE WORK?

The skeletons of diatoms are made up of silica. The processed diatomite desiccates the insect and the waxes and oils of the exoskeleton are then absorbed. The sharp silica shards are like razor blades to insects. Without their wax coating the insects quickly dry out and die. The non-chemical approach to insect control offers major benefits.

## ADVANTAGES OF ABSORBACIDE

- Treated commodities remain chemical and residue free and there is no withholding period. This is an important issue for organic growers, exporters, and other producers of residue free food products.
- Absorbacide is approved for use by one of the largest organic growers associations, the Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA).
- It is unaffected by major changes in temperature.
- It provides complete protection in normal non-ventilated storage facilities. Sealed storage facilities are not required.
- Because diatomite acts by physical means, insecticide resistance will not occur making it ideal for integrated pest management regimes.

## CONFIRMATION OF EFFECTIVENESS

Both the CSIRO and the Queensland DPI have confirmed the effectiveness of Absorbacide as a physical insecticide. Many grain growers have adopted absorbacide for structural treatment of their handling, transport and storage facilities and/or grain protection. The AVPMA has approved Absorbacide as a dust insecticide that controls insect pests in farm stored feed grain.

## COST

Absorbacide treatment at a rate of 1kg/tonne through the conveyor, costs no more than chemical insecticide treatments. As a structural treatment, considerable cost savings are achieved. With a dust application rate of 2g/m<sup>2</sup> the treatment cost is only about 8% of that of chemical sprays. When sprayed on as a water based slurry at 6g/m<sup>2</sup> (dry basis), the cost is still less than half the cost of chemicals.