Frequently Asked Questions: Fire Retardant Coatings

Q. What is No-Burn®?
No-Burn® is a line of intumescents, fire retardants and dual purpose coatings.

Q. Are fire retardants new?
No. Fire retardant coatings, which may otherwise be known as fire protective coatings have met fire performance requirements for decades. Today, fire protective coatings are in compliance with green building criteria, CDPH/EHLB/Standard Method Version 1.1, 2010 (CA Specification 01350) and SCAQMD low VOC and low VOC emissive standards concurrently meeting international code requirements (I-Codes). For decades, coatings have provided field-applied passive fire protection, have been installed by qualified contractors and are continuing to be formulated to meet the evolving international codes (I-Codes) or building codes. For 20 years, No-Burn®, Inc.'s products have met and continue to have the ability to meet your building's fire performance and life safety requirements.

Q. What is a fire retardant?
A substance or coating that reduces flammability or delays combustion, fire retardants manufactured by No-Burn®, Inc. are clear, water-based coatings that slow the spread of flame and may prevent ignition.

Q. Which No-Burn® products are characterized as fire retardants?
Wood Gard, Wood Gard Mih, Original, Original Mih, Fabric Fire Protection and Christmas Tree Fire Gard.

Q. What "Class" of fire retardant coatings does No-Burn®, Inc. manufacture?
Each and every fire retardant coating manufactured by No-Burn®, Inc. has been deemed "Class A" or "Class 1" per Evaluation Report (ER) 305 and third-party Engineering Reports.

Q. Where can I find more information about each fire retardant coating product?
Visit the fire retardant coatings page of No-Burn®, Inc.'s website or contact the manufacturer's office and ask for sales.

Q. How do I know the product will work?
Each Evaluation Report, Listing of Approved Fire Retardant Chemicals (CSFM Flame Retardant-CAL FIRE) and Engineering Report issued to No-Burn®, Inc. verify the products have been tested to show compliance with specific requirements of the international (I-Codes), national, state and local code requirements. Of the utmost importance is the acknowledgement that No-Burn®, Inc.'s products are manufactured in ISO 9001:2008 facilities, under additional third-party inspections as an Evaluation Report and Evaluation Listing holder. When you purchase and install No-Burn®, Inc.'s products, be assured the chemistry and performance quality are as tested because No-Burn®, Inc. is continually audited by independent third-parties.

To see for yourself, ad hoc videos are available for viewing on YouTube.

Q. Is it possible to use No-Burn® in any other applications other than those listed on the website or in the literature?
Examples of acceptable applications have been given for your benefit in manufacturer's literature. For specific questions, please contact the manufacturer's office and ask for sales.

Q. How are No-Burn®, Inc.'s fire retardant coatings applied?
The coatings are primarily spray-applied. Other methods of application include brush, compressed air sprayer or ready-to-use trigger-sprayer. Refer to ER 305 and each product's technical data sheet (TDS) for further information.

Q. Who installs No-Burn®?
No-Burn® is installed by certified applicators in accordance with the manufacturer Evaluation Report and technical data sheets (TDS). No-Burn® fire retardants are also available for retail purchase as a do-it-yourself application.

Q. How does a fire retardant coating differ from an intumescent coating?
Based on appearance, fire retardants are often clear unless they are tinted with dye concentrate. Water-based and flat, white in appearance, No-Burn® intumescent coatings may be tinted to the desired finish color. Additionally, No-Burn®, Inc.'s products have been tested to represent specific circumstances in accordance with international (I-Codes), national, state and local code requirements; product selection may be based on specific building and/or design requirements.

Q. Have No-Burn® fire retardant coatings been evaluated for building code conformance?
Yes. No-Burn®, Inc.'s ER 305, Listing of Approved Fire Retardant Chemicals (CSFM Flame Retardant-CAL FIRE), and additional fire performance testing substantiates No-Burn®, Inc.'s fire protective coatings for surface burning characteristics (ASTM E84, UL 723, NFPA 255, CAN ULC-S102), NFPA 701, FAA FAR 25, BSEN 1021-1/1021-2 and TB117.

Q. Who are No-Burn®, Inc.'s certified installers?
Clients may select installer(s) from a national network. Specializing in the installation of No-Burn® products, installers may also specialize in the installation of other building product materials, such as insulation, fireproofing, etc. For specific questions, please contact the manufacturer's office and ask for sales.

Q. What is provided by the certified installer to certify the application of No-Burn®?
In accordance with ER 305, the certified applicator will provide an installation certificate, exempt for do-it-yourself installation(s). A Certificate of Flame Resistance may also be provided for do-it-yourself applications, upon request.

Q. What's the typical material lead time? What's the typical turnaround time for installation?
As a US based manufacturer, lead times are often shorter than expected. No-Burn®, Inc. strives to meet your personal and project expectations. Certified applicators are nationwide, providing the installation of No-Burn® that aligns with your scheduling needs.

Q. What is the cost for No-Burn®?
Certified applicators will provide an installed price and/or retail or do-it-yourself purchases from Amazon.com may be made. Installed pricing or the total installed cost may be based on the total surface area to which No-Burn® is to be applied. When a do-it-yourself application is permitted, total material cost may be based on the total amount of material purchased plus sales tax and freight, as applicable.

Q. To schedule a job that requires the application of No-Burn®, who should be contacted?
Initially, contact No-Burn®, Inc.

Q. What if a structural or non-structural building material, where No-Burn® was applied, requires replacement?

If the building material requires replacement, No-Burn® will need to be installed on the replacement material.

Q. What is the fire rating of No-Burn®?

Ratings may be referred to as fire performance ratings for building code compliance. For further information, please refer to ER 305, Listing of Approved Fire Retardant Chemicals (CSFM Flame Retardant-CAL FIRE) and/or contact the manufacturer's office and ask for technical support.

Q. At what wet film thickness do the coatings need to be applied?

Examples of acceptable application rates have been given for your benefit in manufacturer's literature. Wet film thicknesses for acceptable applications are specified. For specific questions, please contact the manufacturer's office and ask for technical support.

Q. Are there temperature restrictions for the installation of No-Burn® fire retardants?

Yes. Temperature requirements shall be maintained during application (ER 305 Section 4.1). Cure time is 24 hours; however, temperature requirements are not required to be maintained for 24 hours. Verification of all installation requirements is the responsibility of the certified installer and/or end-user in do-it-yourself application(s).

Q. What test procedure was used to determine how No-Burn® fire retardants meet the building code(s) and green building standards?

- ANSI/ASHRAE/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1
- ASTM E84
- ASTM E96
- BSEN 1021-1/1021-2
- CAN/ULC-S102
- CARB
- CDPH (CA Spec 01350)
- CHPS
- CSFM 1237.1/1264.3
- EC017
- FAA FAR 25
- GSA PBS-P100
- ICC/ASHRAE 700 NGBS
- IgCC
- LEED v3 2009
- LEED v4
- NFPA 255
- NFPA 701
- RoHS
- SCAQMD Rule 1113
- TB117
- UL 723

Q. Do No-Burn® fire retardants increase smoke toxicity compared to the base material's smoke toxicity?

No. No-Burn® reduces the spread of flame and smoke developed. In the unfortunate event of a fire, No-Burn® limits the fire's ability to consume the material; therefore, the smoke developed and smoke toxicity may be considered less threatening.

Q. Are there any compatibility issues with typical sealants and termite treatments or other products it may come into contact with inside the home?

No-Burn® fire retardant coatings should be installed in accordance with manufacturer instructions. In most cases, No-Burn® will be the finish coat on the substrate, which given the intended end-uses, may likely have limited to no contact with typical sealants, termite treatments or other products. As a water-based specialty coating, no special care is necessary once No-Burn® is in place.

Q. How long will the product last in a "real" fire?

All No-Burn® products have been tested in accordance with international standardized fire conditions, most notably ASTM E84 for flame spread and smoke developed. Fire retardant coatings performed equivalent in quality, strength, effectiveness, durability and safety or met the fire performance standard prescribed in the International Building Code® (IBC®), International Residential Code® (IRC®), National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), etc. and the testing protocol of international standards, such as those previously listed above.

Q. Does the product give off gases during curing or once cured?

Fire retardants manufactured by No-Burn®, Inc. may be considered interior specialty coatings. They do contain typical coating particulates classified by the Occupational Safety Hazard Association (OSHA) as non-hazardous, possible irritants, if inhaled while curing. Post curing, the fire retardant(s) are inactive or static. In the case of activation, the fire retardant(s) reduce the amount of smoke, by ceasing and limiting the spread of flame, by more than 50%. Fire retardants manufactured by No-Burn®, Inc. comply with strict VOC content and emissive regulations and green building standards.

Copies of (M)SDS are available online at www.noburn.com.

Q. Does No-Burn® reduce structural design values?

No. The application of fire retardant coatings does not negatively affect mechanical properties of the substrate.

Q. Does typical swelling and shrinkage of wooden substrates impact No-Burn® fire retardant coatings?

No. No-Burn® fire retardant coatings do not restrict or limit the amount of moisture that passes through a material or assembly.