



## **MICON THATCHBOR FR**

**Micon Thatchbor FR** is a one step treatment product now available to potential thatch owners who require both the benefits of a biological preservative as well as fire retardancy protection.

### **Micon Thatchbor FR benefits**

- fire safety assurance together with prolonged durability against fungal decay and insect attack
- tested in accordance with CSIR, DIN and UL (modified) requirements
- pre-treatment of the grass by an impregnation process ensuring total thatch protection
- proper control of active ingredients uptake and retention levels
- permanent once-off treatment only
- minimal effects from leaching as active ingredients are deposited inside the grass stem
- reduction in allergens, the cause of many allergies in children
- quality assurance monitored by the SABS and the CSIR
- environmentally safe
- patent pending

### **Wording for Typical Specification**

”Treat thatch with **MICON THATCHBOR FR** in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions – Micon, P O Box 307, Lonehill, 2062, South Africa”.

### **Description**

**Micon Thatchbor FR** is a dual purpose aqueous chemical system which contains both a fire retardant and borate based biological preservative. Boron compounds for preservation, are preferred by international environmentalists. In addition, borates are known fire retardants and because of synergism between the preservatives and fire retardants active ingredients, excellent fire retardancy is obtained.

### **Treatment**

**Micon Thatchbor FR** is a once-off impregnation process that ensures full protection throughout the full depth of the thatch roof. An innovative aspect of Thatchbor is the treatment process. The natural wax layer on the surface of grass prevents the absorption of chemical products into the stem. The chemical composition of Micon Thatchbor FR has been specially developed for impregnation which facilitates penetration right into the heart of the grass stem thus providing full treatment of the grass.

**Micon Thatchbor FR** is the perfect partner for **Flambor** – a dual purpose timber treatment product – the two products providing the perfect protection combination for thatch roofs and timber structures. Now a total “system”, monitored by both the SABS and the CSIR, can be specified in order to fulfil the requirements of the CSIR’s “Guidelines for Good Thatching Practice”.

### **Environment**

The **Micon Thatchbor FR** active ingredients are based on compounds of low mammalian toxicity and treated thatch is safe to handle, process and dispose of. **Micon Thatchbor FR** does not contain heavy metals and poses no persistent environmental pollution threats.

## MICON THATCHBOR FR – TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### Product Name

Micon Thatchbor FR

### Product Type:

Dual purpose aqueous chemical system which contains phosphate based fire retardants and borate based preservative. **Micon Thatchbor FR** provides permanent and wide spectrum protection against biological attack and imparts fire retardation to the grass.

### Good Thatching Practice:

It is crucial that the thatch roof construction complies with the “SANS 10407.2004 Good Thatching Practice” as fire performance is also dependant on the construction of the thatch.

### Quality Control:

Quality control procedures are of a high standard and all batch numbers are recorded for each contract and copies of certificates are kept by both Micon and CSIR for each completed job.

### Application:

Pre-treatment of thatch by vacuum impregnation.

### Certification:

As the purpose of **Micon Thatchbor FR** is to provide vital protection in the event of a fire, Micon offers a certificate for each contract. The homeowner, architect, developer or Building Control Officer can request a copy of this document.

### Test Reports:

Properties	:	Test Method
Fire Test	:	DIN, UL (modified)
Weathering	:	CSIR, UL (modified)
Biological	:	CSIR

CSIR test report numbers BF 502/070 5600 5664  
(Large and small scale tests)

### Physical Properties:

Appearance	:	Clear liquid
Solubility	:	Soluble in water
Density @ 20 deg C	:	1.16
Ph	:	3.5

## **THATCHBOR**

An innovation in fire retardancy and preservation system to benefit thatch owners.

A new breakthrough has been made in the development of a fire retardant and preservative product that offers superior performance whilst ensuring protection of our environment into the new millennium.

### **Innovation**

A new method of treating grass for thatch roofing and timber has been developed and patented by Micon and Timberlife. The process is based on the impregnation of grass / reed and other similar products with an innovative new product call **Thatchbor**, a combination biological preservative and fire retardant.

### **Fire Safety**

The risk of a fire hazard associated with thatch can be significantly reduced with the application of **Thatchbor**. So much so that insurance companies are prepared to offer a discount on premiums provided the product is used. **Thatchbor** is a patented product and has achieved commercial success both locally and internationally. **Thatchbor** is an approved CSIR fire retardant product tested to meet the requirements of SABS, UL (USA) and DIN (Germany).

### **Decay**

An additional problem confronting some thatch roof owners is the decay and decomposition of the thatch often resulting in the need to replace the roof after a period of less than 3 years. The decay and composition is a natural process and is inevitable unless further treatment is undertaken. The borate component of **Thatchbor**, a well known wood preservative, takes care of this problem.

### **Product development**

An integral part of Micon and product development is listening and learning from its customers. The need for products to minimise the decay of thatch and at the same time provide fire protection was the challenge facing the research and development team. Micon's experience in fire retardants was combined with TimberLife's preservative knowledge and the outcome was the development of a biological preservative / fire retardant product for the treatment of thatch patented as **Thatchbor**. Thatchbor is a one step treatment product now available to home owners who require the benefits of a biological preservative as well as a fire retardancy protection.

### **Unique Treatment Process**

The innovative aspect of **Thatchbor** is the treatment process. The wax layer on the surface of the grass normally prevents the absorption of treatment products into the grass stem. **Thatchbor** has been specifically developed for impregnation which facilitates the penetration of **Thatchbor** right into the heart of the grass stem thus providing full treatment of the grass.

The advantages of this process are that now, for the first time, the full depth of the thatch roof is treated thus eliminating the risk of an untreated core. Once **Thatchbor** has been impregnated into the grass stem the effects of leaching are minimal and the protection is permanent. Unlike conventional spray-on applications, no further treatment is required.

A mobile treatment facility has been constructed to offer a full “on-site” treatment service to thatchers thereby reducing additional transport costs, also a number of timber treaters have now been licensed to treat thatch with **Thatchbor**.

### **Promotes export**

Micon and TimberLife’s innovative method of treating grass through an impregnation process has been developed to promote the export of thatch. The advantage of treatment with **Thatchbor** is that the grass is pre-treated, loaded into containers for export and then erected as a finished product without any further treatment. This method has tremendous cost saving advantages for the thatch owner and should assist thatching companies seeking export opportunities.

### **The Thatch “System”**

The recent development of **Thatchbor** provides a perfect combination with **Flambor**, a wood preservative / fire retardant timber treatment product. The Micon / TimberLife joint venture now offer a complete “system” for the protection of thatch structures which includes biological preservative and fire retardant treatment of both thatch and timber structures. **Thatchbor** provides full protection for the thatch roof while **Flambor**, a boron fire retardant combination, imparts full protection for the timber.

### **Product Testing and Quality Assurance**

**Thatchbor** products have been extensively tested and approved by the CSIR in accordance with German, British and American test procedures. Quality assurance is strictly monitored by the SABS and CSIR. Treaters must comply with strict quality control procedures, failure to do so may result in the withdrawal of their chemical supply license. The aim of this tight control is to ensure that the customer receives top quality products in accordance with stringent specifications. This will ensure that customer satisfaction is achieved through prolonged life of the thatch and structure together with the assurance of fire safety.

Of particular interest is the action of the biological preservative present in **Thatchbor** which minimises the effects of allergens or storage fungi present in thatch, often the cause of allergies in young children.

## **Benefits of and Thatchbor**

- fire safety assurance together with prolonged durability against fungal decay and insect attack see CSIR report
- tested in accordance with SABS, CSIR, DIN and UL (modified) fire requirements
- pre-treatment of the grass by an impregnation process ensuring total thatch protection
- proper control of active ingredient uptake and retention levels
- permanent once-off treatment
- minimal effects from leaching as the active ingredients are deposited inside the grass stem
- reduction in allergies, the cause of many allergies in children
- quality assurance monitored by the SABS and CSIR
- environmentally safe
- mobile treatment facility
- patented technology

The product, **Thatchbor** is marketed by

Micon Coatings, (011) 882 1443, South Africa  
Who can be contacted, should you have any queries.