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Bark House® Shingle Siding Insect Resistance

One of the first questions we often receive in initial inquiries about our Bark House Shingle product is whether there will ever be an issue with insects. The short answer is no. Field observations of early poplar bark installations from the 1920's initially proved to us that insect damage was nonexistent. We regularly check in on our previous projects that date back to 1990 and note the same result. The long answer is that there are trace amounts of Alpha Pinene within the bark of tulip poplar. The compound is noticeable when the bark is harvested exhibiting a somewhat pungent turpentine scent.

Early in our product development, we had our bark shingles tested for a host of properties including a detailed chemical analysis. Even though Alpha Pinene is considered a VOC, the amounts present in tulip poplar bark do not exceed levels considered hazardous to humans. This is reflective in the fact that our Bark House Exterior Shingles passed the California Classroom VOC Emission Standard as well as receiving the Cradle to Cradle Platinum Standard.

Inquiries with Forest Service Entomologists confirm that the Alpha Pinene content of the bark makes it highly toxic and resistant to insect damage. While insects may still be found on the surface, we have never found any evidence of insects boring through the bark or taking residence within the inner bark phloem. While the question occasionally arises of the use of borate treatment to enhance its resistance to insects, all of our research shows that it is an absolute unnecessary procedure.