



Studio Naqshbandi | Auroville Case Study 2010 - 2020

studionaqshbandi@gmail.com
Mona Doctor-Pingel

Today it is common to use Pest Control chemicals for termite treatment in the construction of buildings. However, all the chemicals eventually contaminate our soil or reach the ground water source below the earth.

Ancient Building Codex of India **Vaastu Shastra** has given us many tips to build in harmony with nature and climate.

Here is one recipe that has been used by Studio Naqshbandi in Auroville with very good results over the last 10 years.

Given to architect *Mona Doctor-Pingel*, Auroville from architect *Sashikala Ananth*, Ritambhara Ashram, Kotagiri.

- 1 Dig all around the building periphery at least 1-1.5m if possible and 25-30 cms depth. Deeper the better. Most people forget to create this base all around the building. As a result, when the excavated earth is used to fill the perimeter of the building, termites can get on to the walls and also enter into the concealed wiring and plumbing when they find a loophole.
- 2 Fill with river sand or if not available, granite quarry dust or M-sand or any other local filling material which doesn't have the soil around in it. We need a medium that doesn't already hold termite eggs in them. Over this the treatment has to be done.
- 3 Similarly, within the building, allow for 9-12 inches of filling, excluding the PCC or BBLC and flooring material.
- 4 For the treatment mixture: Take Haldi powder, Neem cake, Neem oil - mix in equal amounts by volume. To this add 10 times by volume of water. This liquid should be coated on top of the filling.
- 5 At studio Naqshbandi we have experimented by adding lime powder and alum (quantity as per convenience/intuition), to avoid other crawlies like ants etc, which are not part of the traditional recipe. This has given us good results.

Note: The quantity you see here is enough for approx. 25sqm/250sqft area

