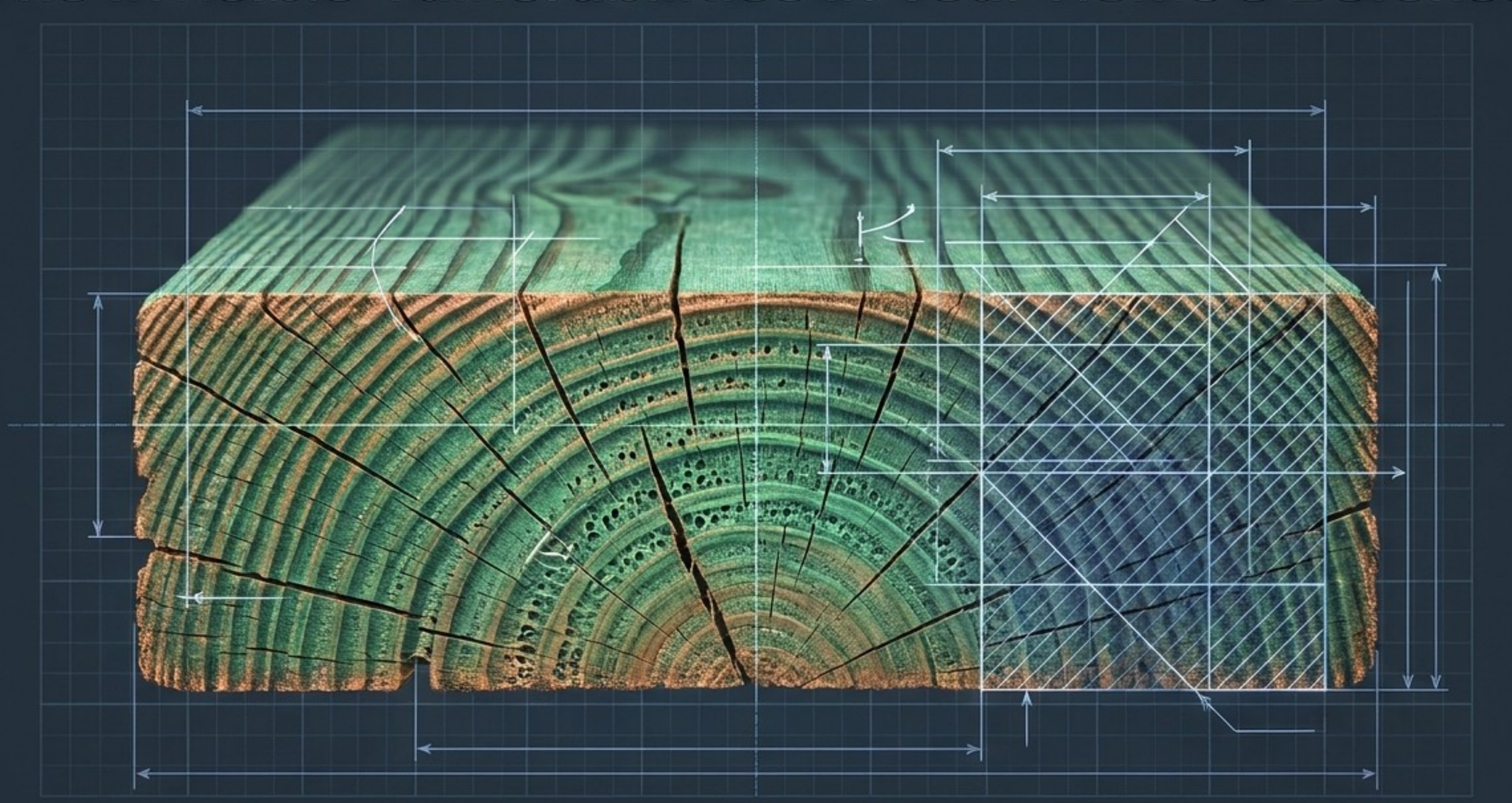
The Invisible Vulnerabilities in Your Home's Defense

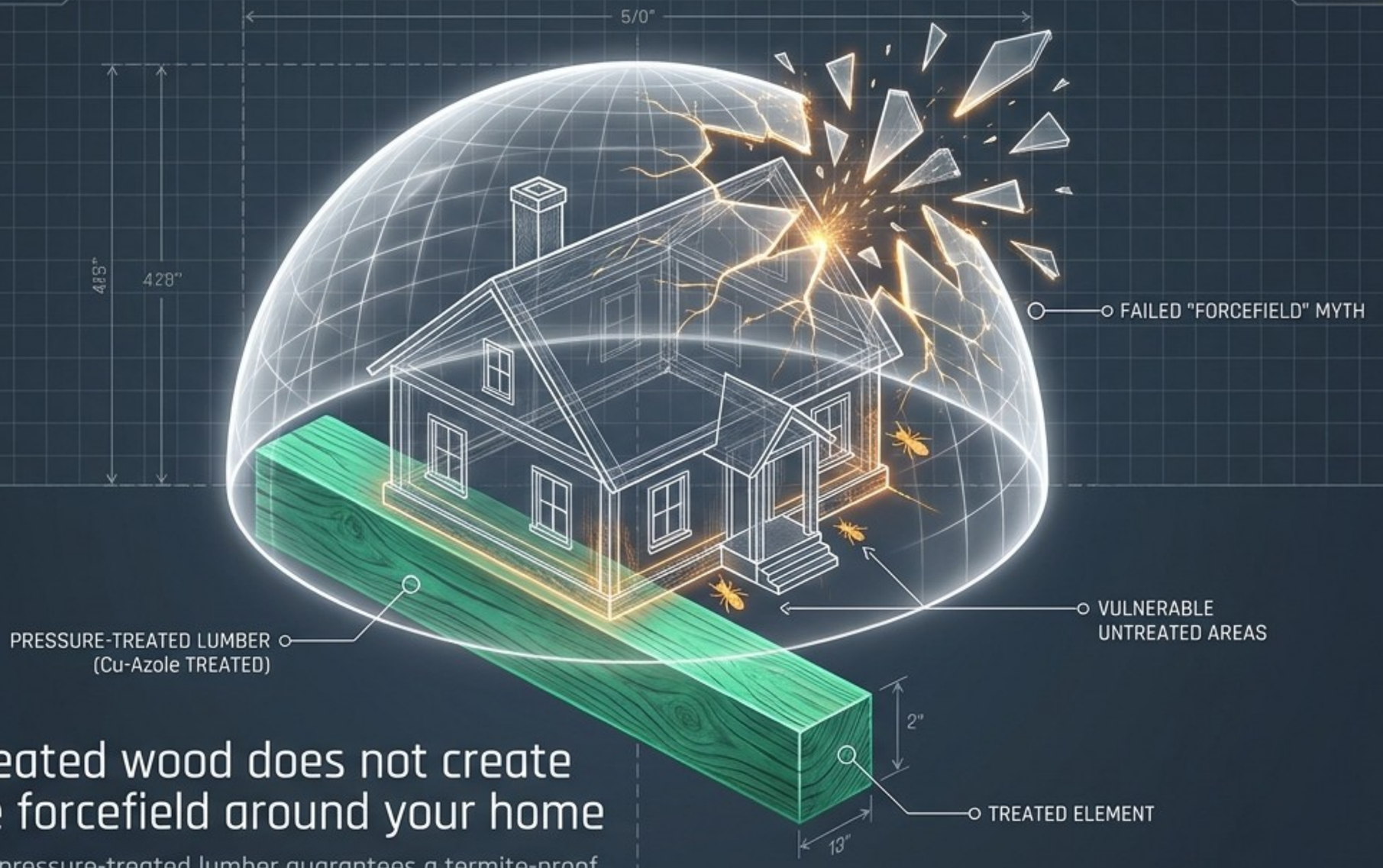


Do Termites Eat Pressure-Treated Wood?

Gemini Notebook

STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY ANALYSIS

STATUS: MYTH DEBUNKED

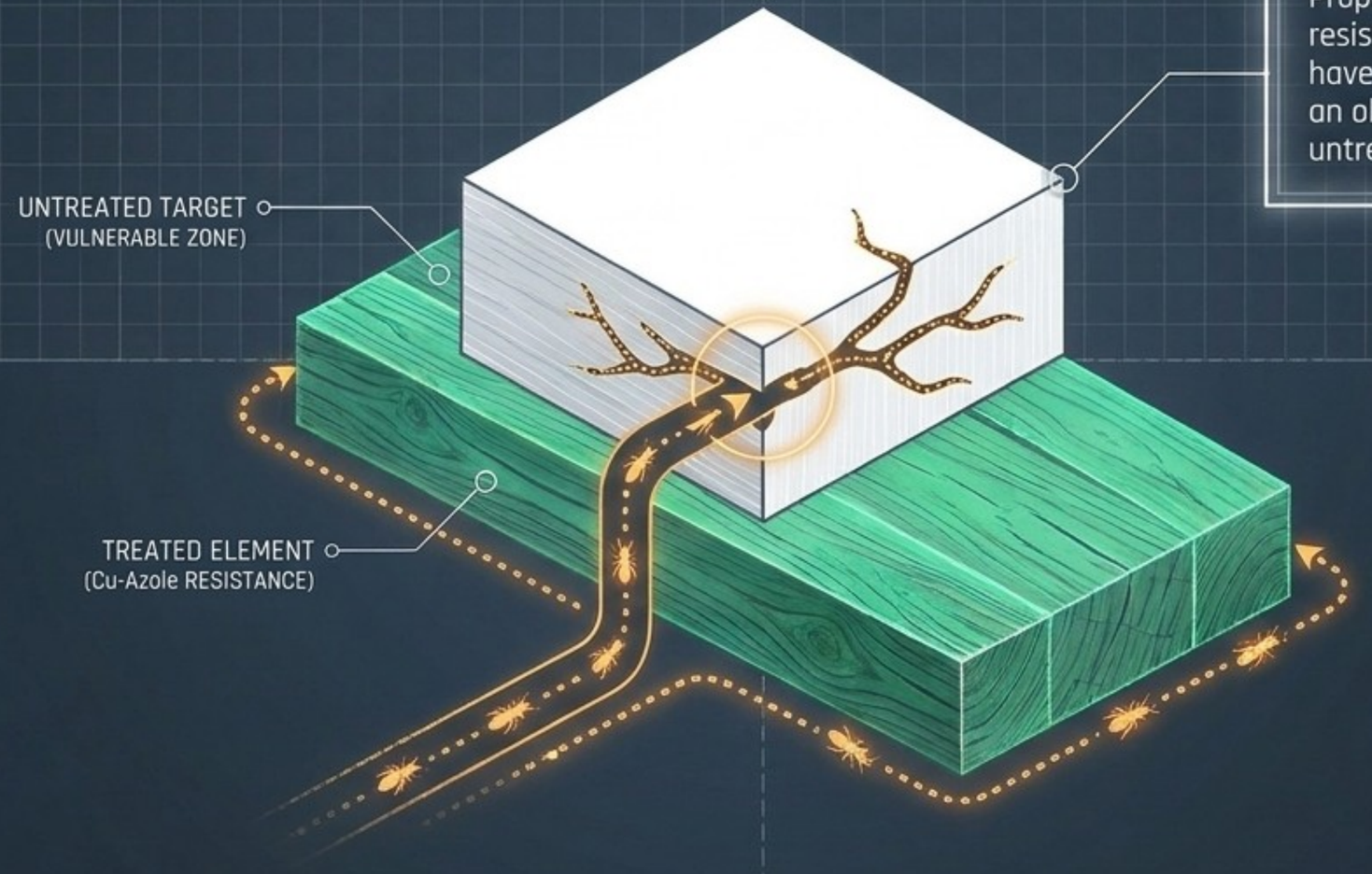


Pressure-treated wood does not create a protective forcefield around your home

People often believe pressure-treated lumber guarantees a termite-proof structure. In reality, it protects only the treated board itself, not the untreated framing, trim, or cut ends surrounding it.

Gemini Notebook

Termites rarely eat treated wood, but they easily navigate around it

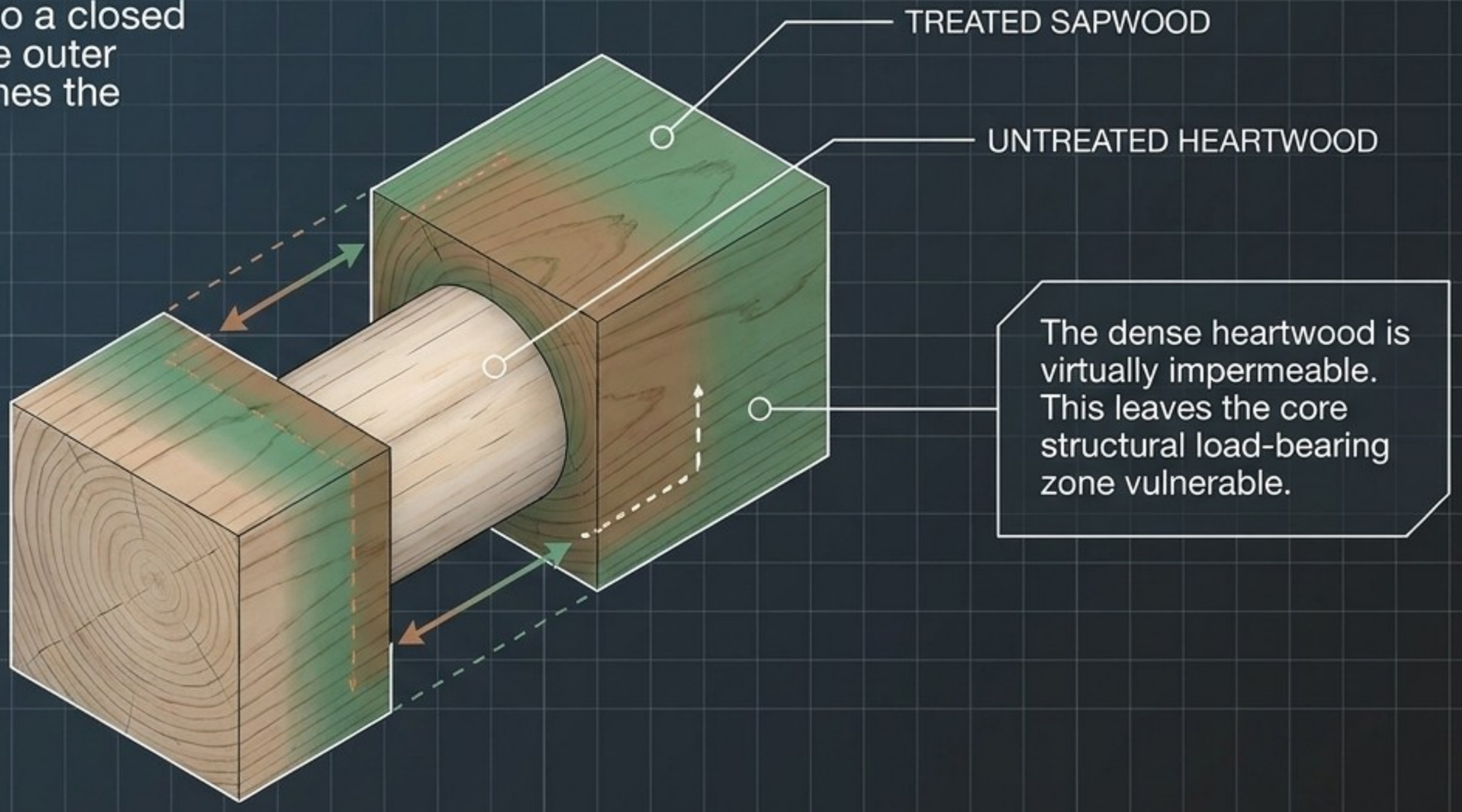


Properly treated wood strongly resists feeding. But termites do not have to consume it; they treat it as an obstacle to bypass to reach untreated structural targets.

Gemini Notebook

Preservatives only defend the outer perimeter of the lumber

Pressure treatment forces copper or borate preservatives into a closed cylinder, penetrating the outer sapwood. It rarely reaches the dense center core.



Gemini Notebook

Termites exploit six hidden loopholes to bypass chemical defenses



1. Mud Tubes



2. Untreated Adjacency



3. Fresh Cuts



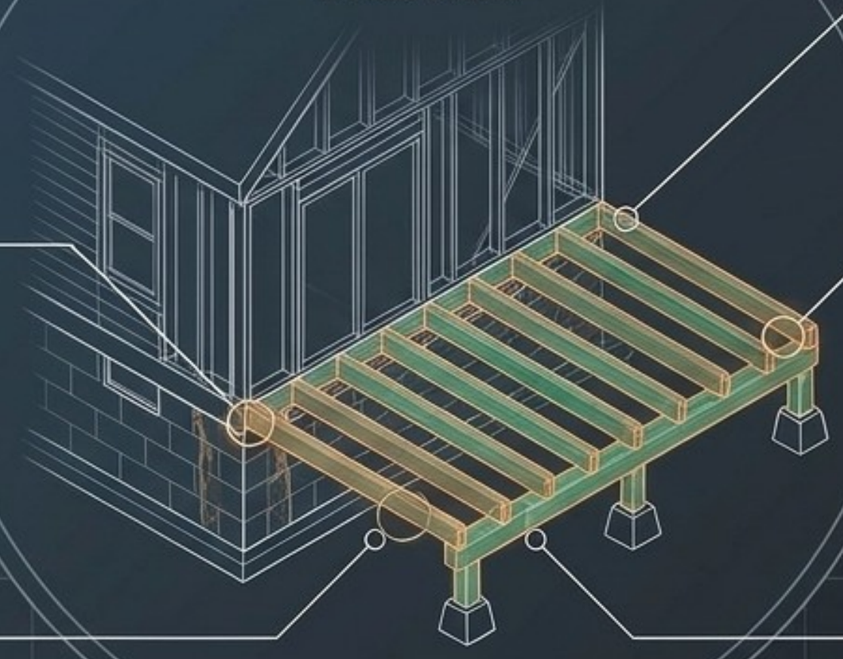
4. Wrong Rating



5. Leaching

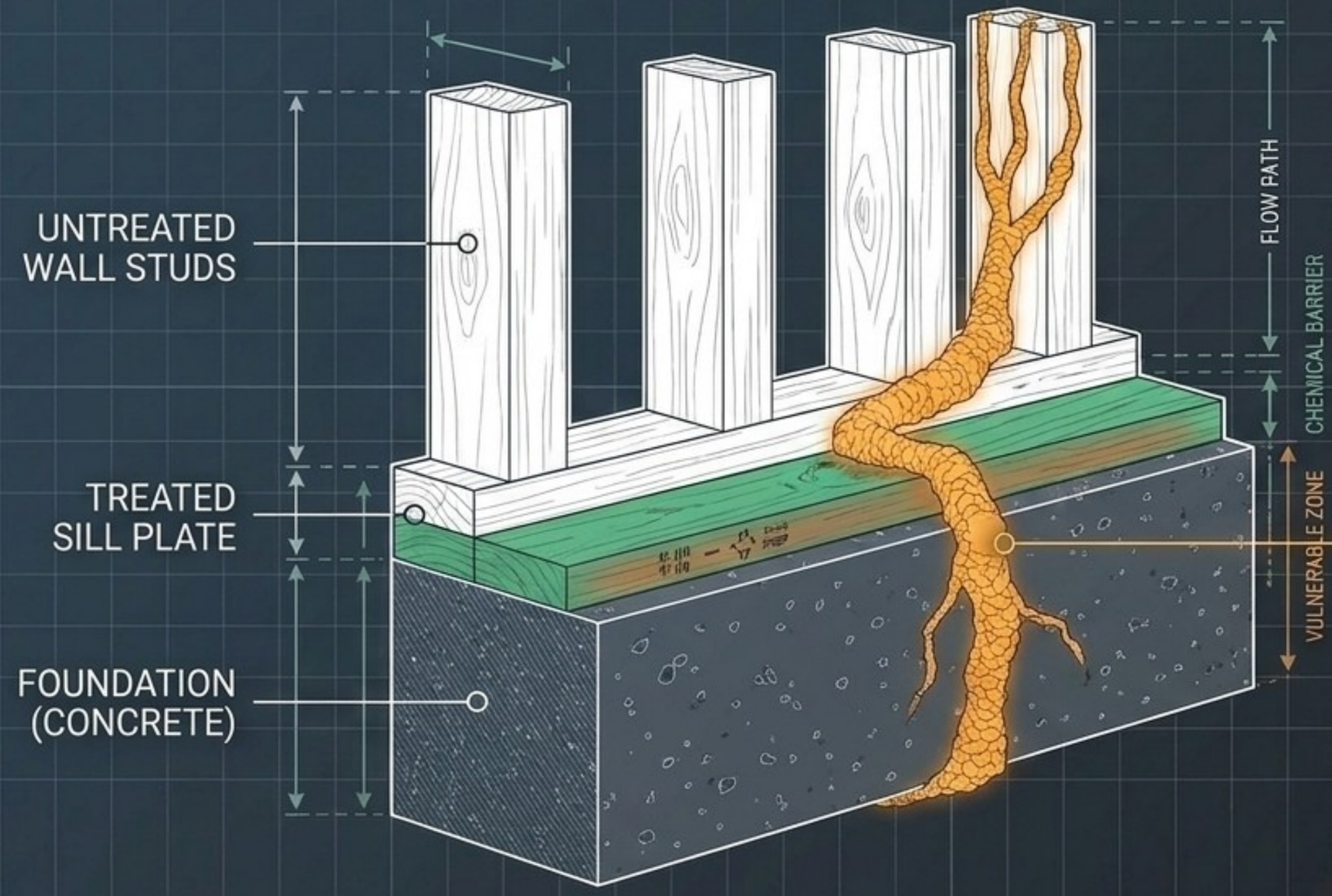


6. Hidden Gaps



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The siege uses treated surfaces as bridges to untreated targets

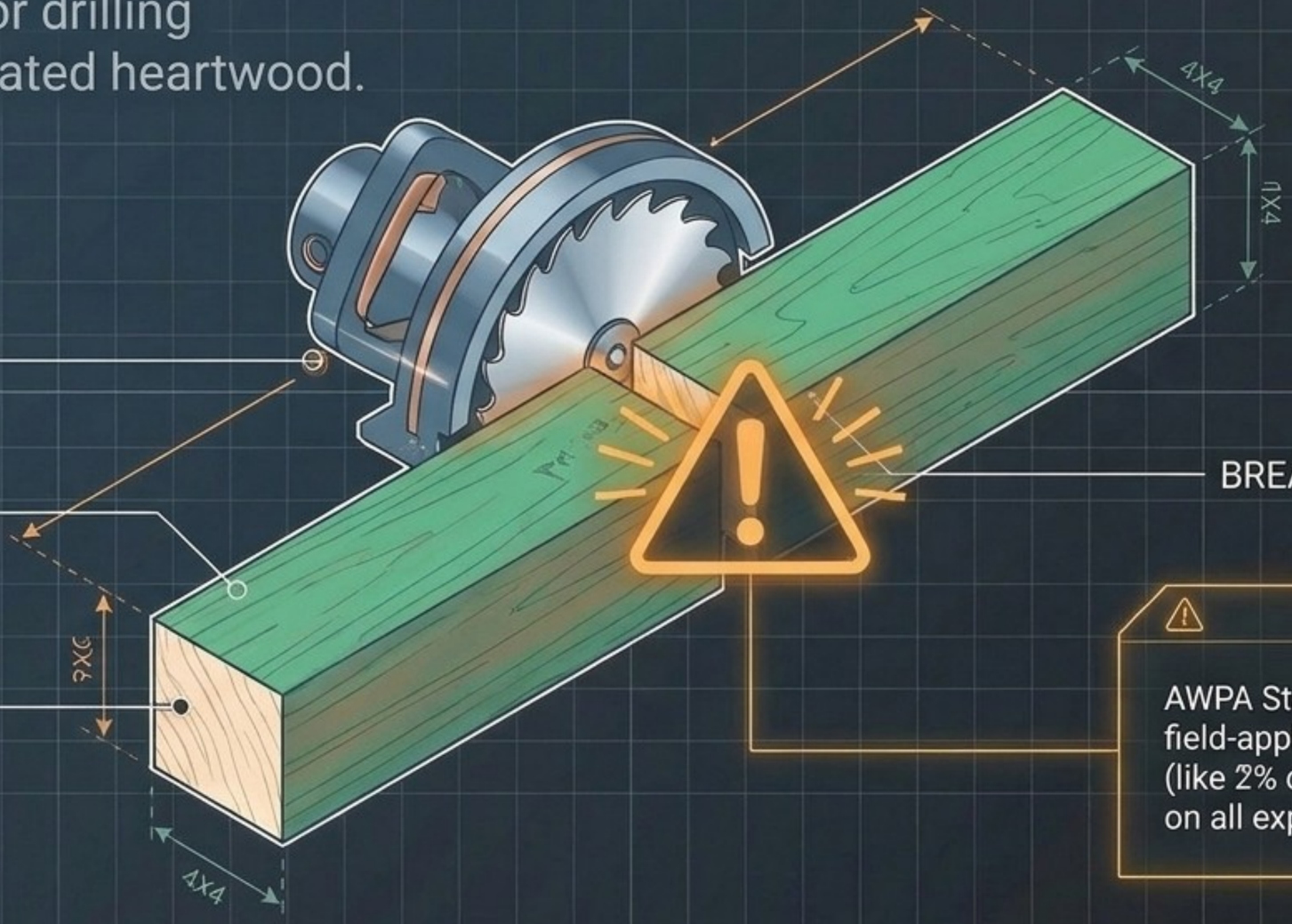


Subterranean termites construct mud tubes over toxic surfaces to reach untreated flooring, sheetrock, and framing just inches away.

Gemini Notebook

Every fresh cut or drilled hole breaches the chemical armor

Cutting to length or drilling exposes the untreated heartwood.



AWPA Standard M4 requires field-applied preservatives (like 2% copper naphthenate) on all exposed ends.

Gemini Notebook

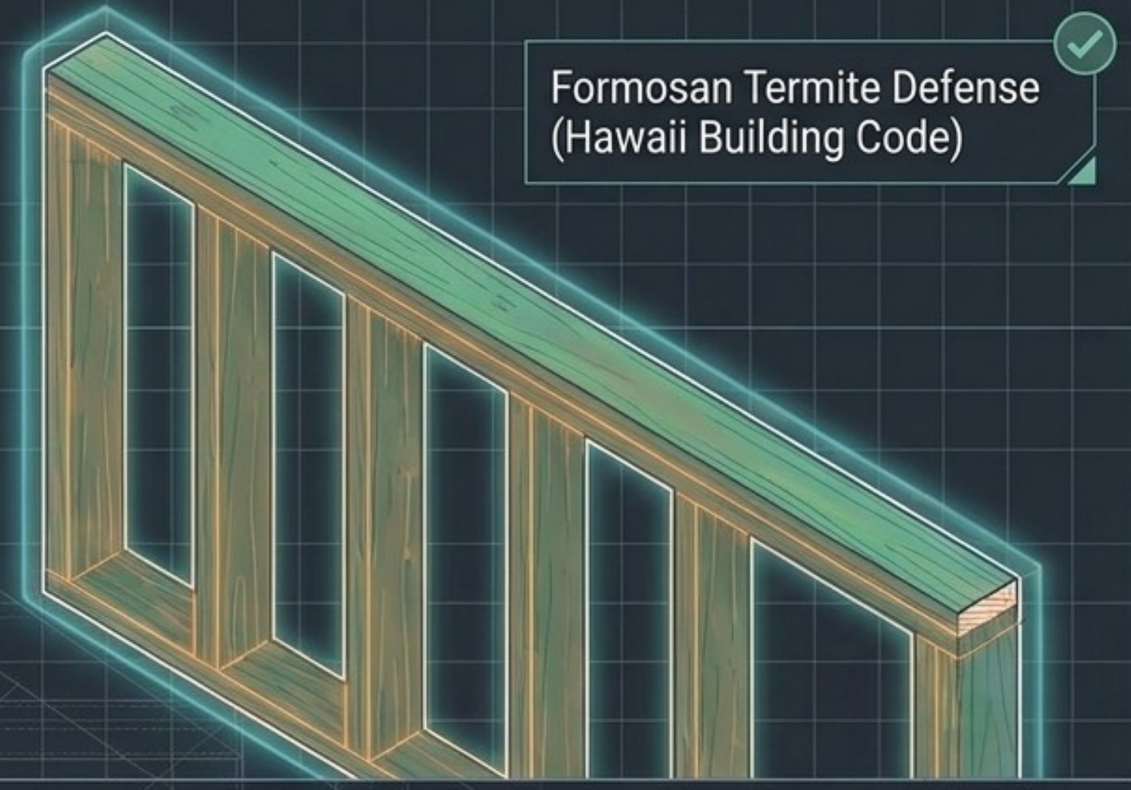
Misusing wood categories guarantees structural failure over time

	AWPA Use Category	Structural Use	Termite Risk if Misused
1	 **UC4A / UC4B (Ground Contact)**	Posts, deck ledgers, landscape walls	High if ground line is unmonitored; moisture/soil/wood meet
2	 **UC3B (Above Ground)**	Deck boards, railings, joists	High if buried in soil or kept permanently wet
3	 **UC2 (Indoor / Protected)**	Sill plates	Low for feeding, but termites will tube over it to reach framing

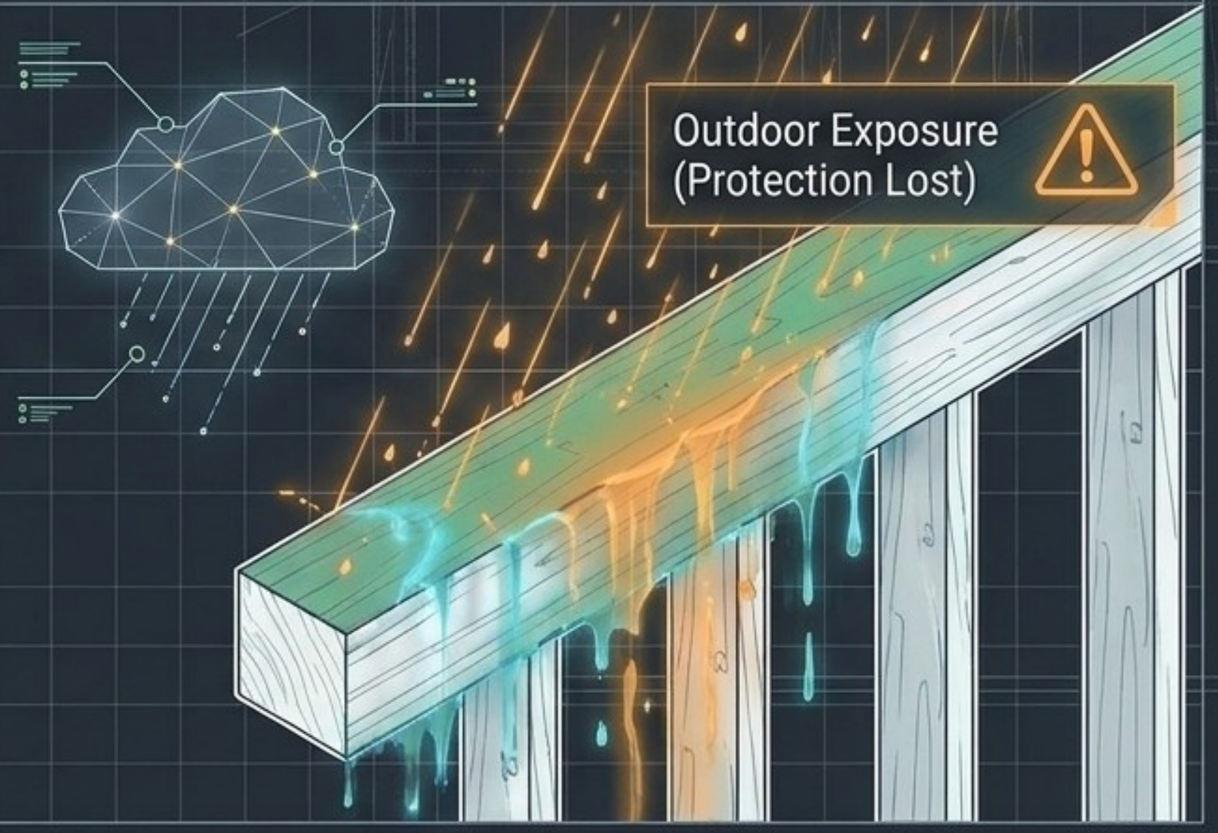
Gemini Notebook

Borate treatments are highly effective but instantly dissolve in water

SAFE INTERIOR USE



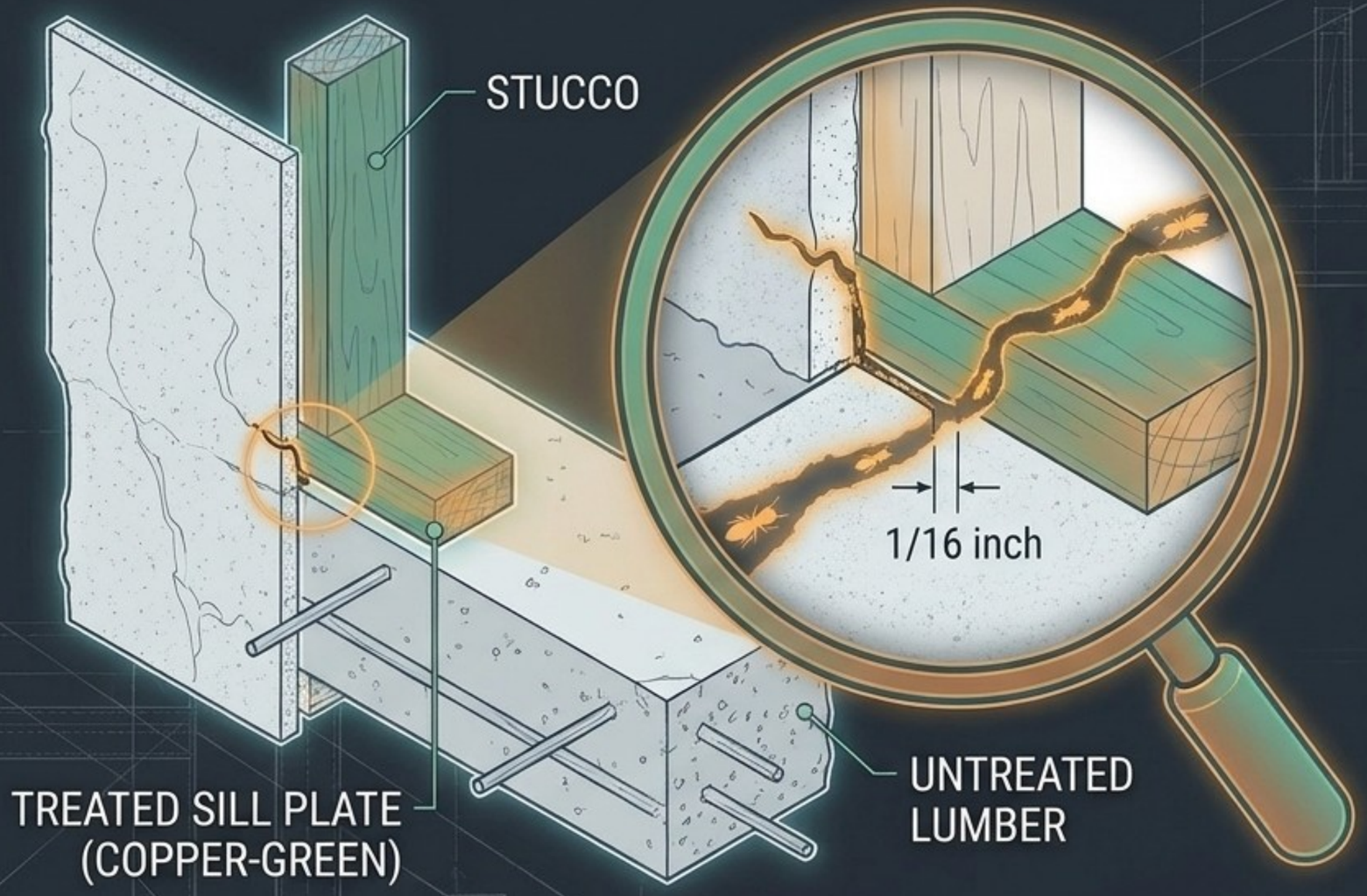
VULNERABLE OUTDOOR EXPOSURE



Borate-treated lumber is strictly limited by AWPA standards to interior uses that remain dry. It prevents feeding and tubing, but cannot survive outdoor exposure.

Gemini Notebook

Insects slip through microscopic structural gaps and leached zones



Leaching:

Without proper protection, copper chemicals leach out of exposed lumber over time, especially in soil.

Gaps:

Termites can bypass treated zones entirely through construction cracks as small as 1/16th of an inch.

Gemini Notebook

Soft wood at the ground line is not always a termite attack

Wood Decay



STRUCTURAL FORMULA

Across Grain + Crumbling + Wet
= Wood Decay / Rot

Termite Damage

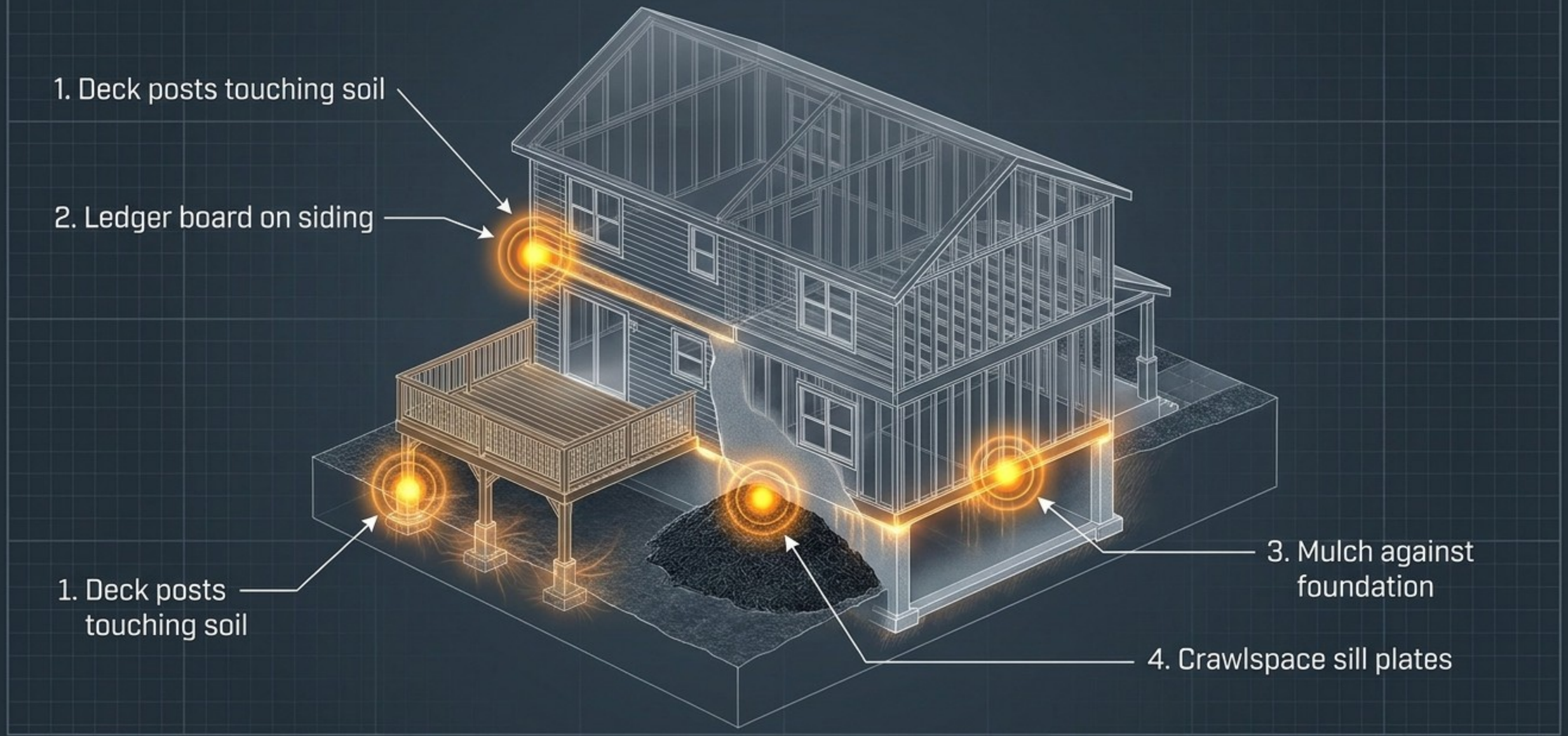


STRUCTURAL FORMULA

Along Grain + Hollowed + Soil Packed
= Subterranean Termites

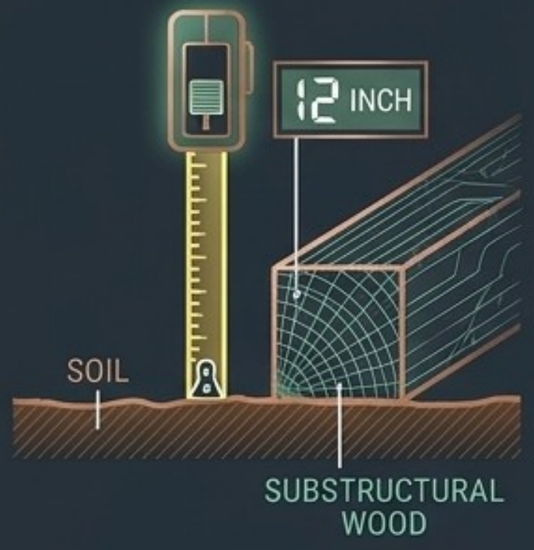
Gemini Notebook

Focus your inspection on architectural transition points



Gemini Notebook

Fortify the perimeter with four actionable building practices



Reduce Contact

Maintain a strict 12-inch vertical gap between soil and substructural wood.



Read End Tags

Verify the precise AWPA Use Category rating for ground contact components.



Treat Cut Ends

Apply copper naphthenate to all freshly sawn ends and drilled holes.

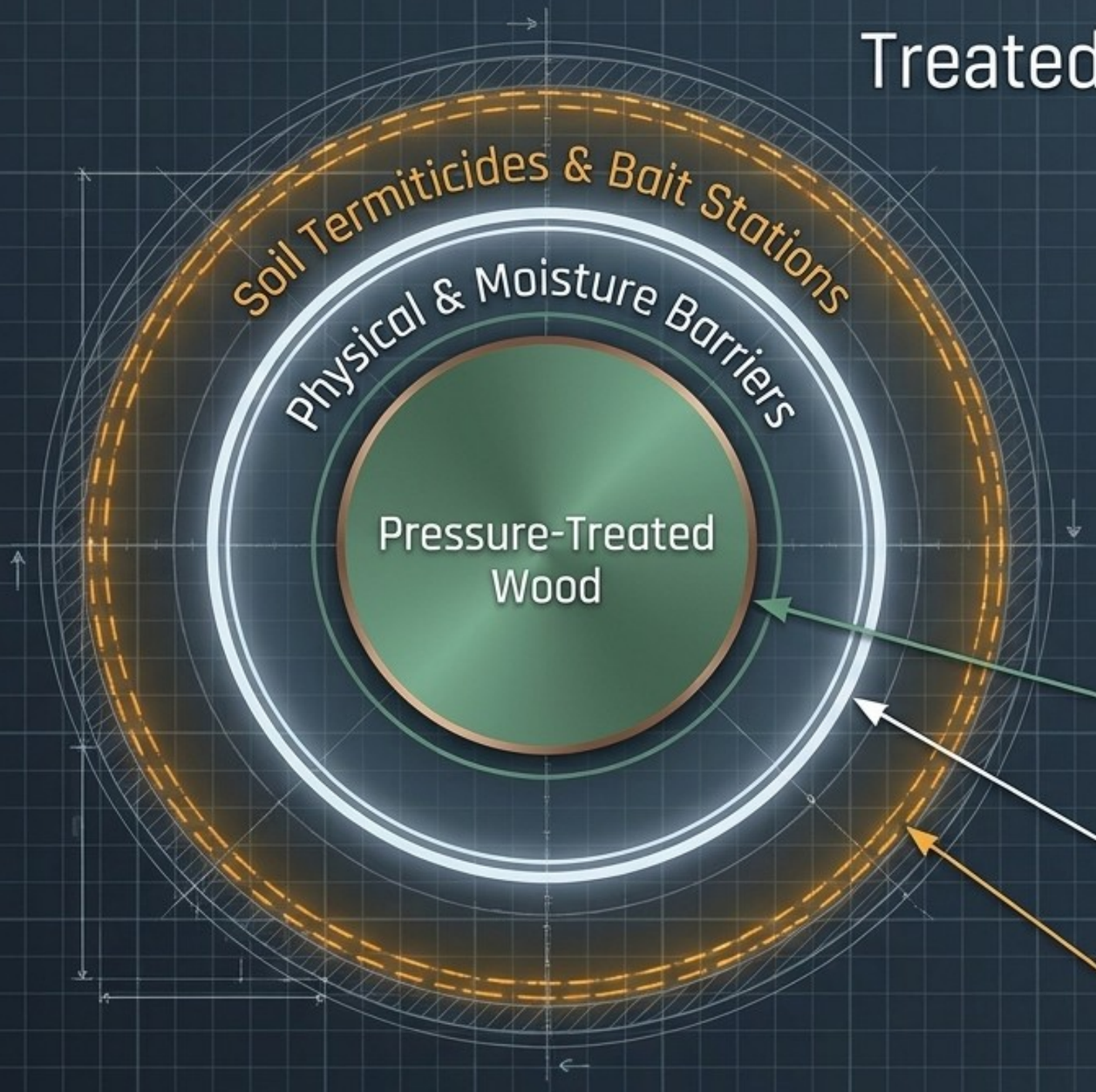


Eliminate Moisture

Fix sprinkler overspray, improve drainage, and repair exterior leaks.

Gemini Notebook

Treated lumber is just one component of a total defense system



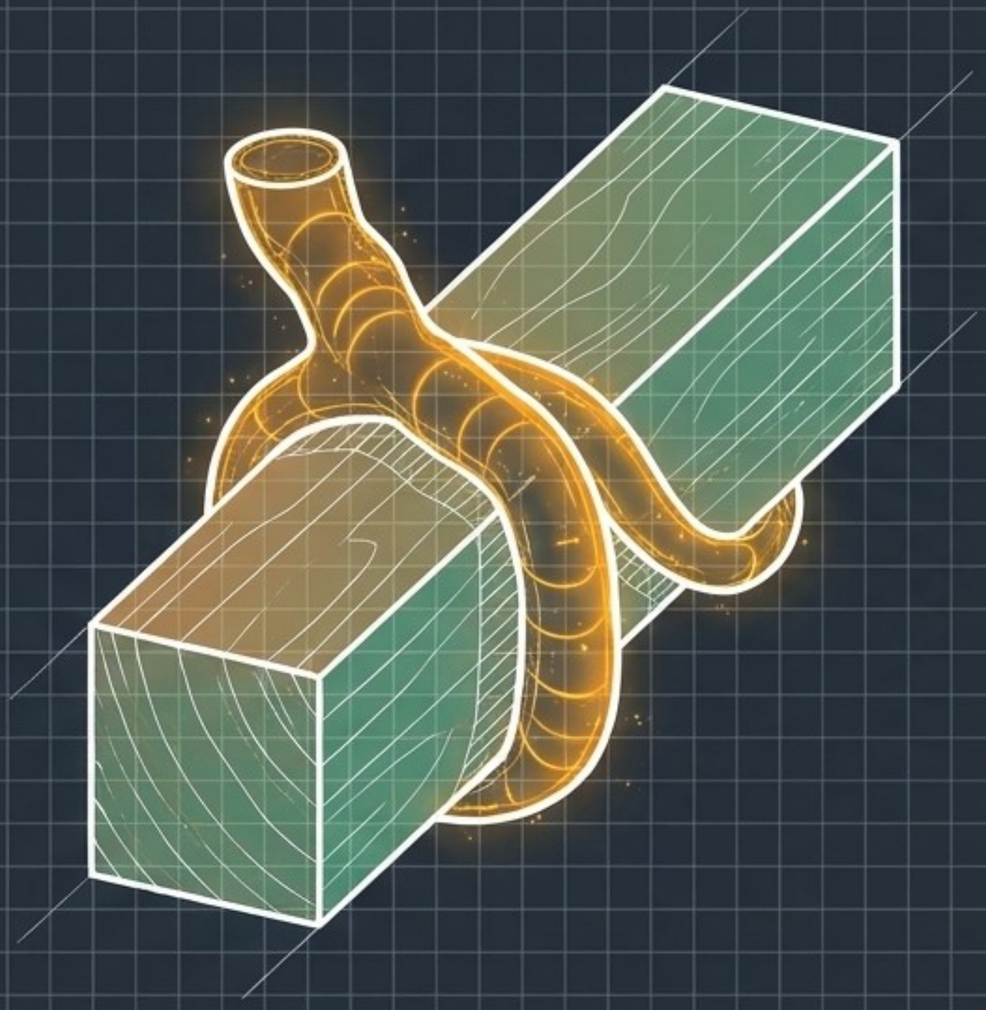
Per International Residential Code (IRC) Section R318.1, total structural defense requires multiple integrated methods. Treated lumber alone is never a substitute for routine inspection and dedicated prevention.

Pressure-Treated Wood
Protects only the board itself

Physical & Moisture Barriers
Keeps wood dry and separated from soil

Soil Termiticides & Bait Stations
Active colony population control

Gemini Notebook



Finding mud tubes requires immediate professional evaluation

Treated wood lowers your risk, but it does not guarantee safety. If you discover mud tubes, hollowed wood, or swarmers near treated lumber:

- Photograph the evidence.
- Leave mud tubes completely intact.
- Do not apply DIY surface sprays.

Schedule a Licensed Structural Inspection

Gemini Notebook