

Biobarrier® Technology Celebrates More Than 20 Years of Safely Protecting Structures and Landscapes from Root Intrusion

Since 1986, Biobarrier® has been the product of choice for re-directing tree and shrub roots from walls, sidewalks, foundations and landscapes. Biobarrier Root Control System is placed in a trench between roots and the area to be protected and is guaranteed for 15 years.

“When we introduced Biobarrier, it was a different kind of product for the market,” said Roger Bergh, Biobarrier Senior Sales Manager. “It still is unlike anything else. We think it is also the most effective and cost-efficient method of inhibiting root growth. For example, it generally costs about \$900 to replace 15 linear feet of 4-foot-wide sidewalk. Using Biobarrier along that same stretch of sidewalk costs less than \$50.”*

Biobarrier is a unique, porous, durable geotextile fabric, which has permanently attached nodules containing trifluralin, a non-systemic herbicide that is classified by the EPA as Class IV and has a lower oral toxicity than table salt. Trifluralin prevents root tip cells from dividing, which is the method by which roots grow. The nodules are engineered to slowly release the trifluralin, creating a zone where root growth is inhibited. Instead, roots are re-directed to grow away from Biobarrier and the object being protected, preventing costly and dangerous root damage.

Trifluralin has been used between rows of food crops to prevent weed growth for more than 40 years. It has an extremely low water solubility of 0.3 ppm (parts per million), making it unlikely to leach. Trifluralin tightly attaches to soil, so it doesn't tend to migrate, and it decomposes in six months or less, so it doesn't persist in the ground.

Biobarrier has a number of advantages over other root barriers. It does not need to protrude above ground where it could be a tripping hazard and costly liability. Because it's a flexible geotextile fabric, it will fit the contours of the site; it can be used along a sidewalk, to encircle a tree or in any other configuration as it's needed. Unlike a solid barrier, Biobarrier will not create a “swimming pool” effect by trapping water in a circle, which could drown the tree or shrub. The geotextile fabric is porous to allow air, nutrients and water through it--soil hydrology is not affected.

Another Biobarrier® product, Biobarrier® Weed Control Fabric, is placed on the ground like a landscape fabric and then covered; it is guaranteed for 10 years.

*Installation charges would be additional.