

AFTER - SERVICE CHECKLIST



Species: *Coptotermes acinacformis* (Subterranean)
 Dampwood Termites - Family Hodotermitidae
 Drywood Termites -

Habitat

Termite is the common name of a group of chemically complex insects that live in communities as ants do. They have long been known as white ants however this is not entirely accurate for termites are like ants only in their habits of living together and that they are small in size. Actually termites are more closely related to cockroaches and grasshoppers.

Their mouth parts, antennae, thick waists, primitive wings and other features resemble those of cockroaches. Termites are found almost all over Australia. Some termites build huge mounds of bits of soil mixed with wood saliva. These nests may be 6 metres high. The inside of the mound is divided into various chambers and galleries. In the centre is a closed cell where the queen is kept. The queens' body goes under extraordinary change. Her body swells up to hold thousands of eggs. The queen lays the eggs at the rate of several thousand a day.

Studies in the U.S. have revealed that termites cause as much property damage each year as fire does.

Termites digest wood , paper , and other material containing cellulose, with aid of protozoain their bodies. They do much damage in tunnelling through the wood work of houses destroy books and furniture , and do great damage by tunnelling through fence posts, trees, timbers of wooden buildings, bridges ,trestles , and other structures. In houses they eat , cloth furniture, books and paper.

Dampwood Termites

Threats

Dampwood termites do not usually infest structures because of the low moisture content of wood in structures. However, care must be taken to avoid attracting dampwood termites to a structure.

Drywood termites

While drywood termites are found in only certain areas of the country, they can be transported in furniture or other artefacts such as picture frames. Drywoods need minimal moisture and infest the wood and spread at very low rates. The wood damage can be extensive. Usually the first signs of infestation are holes in the wood and spilling of small oval pellets.

Post Treatment Recommendation

- Do not water garden areas for 7 days following a treatment
- Do not enter sub floor area for 7 days after the treatment
- Do not replace damaged timbers until after the 30-day follow up has been carried out

Prevention Tips

As with most forms of pest control, there are certain things the property owner can do to lessen the risk of termite infestation:

- Piles of timber or firewood under or stacked against the house are an open invitation and should be moved to a location away from the building.
- Any timber or formwork left under the house by the builder should be removed. This can provide a natural path for the termites from the ground to the sub-floor.
- Adequate ventilation beneath a suspended floor is also important. This helps to reduce moisture and humidity in the area and therefore makes it less attractive to termites. Here too, PestAway can be of assistance in installing the correct type and number of ventilators to rectify the problem.
- Keep the area under and around the building tidy and free from rubbish so any termite activity can be easily located. A regular inspection (at least every 12 months) by a PestAway expert is strongly advised
- Never disturb what you think may be a termite nest or workings. This will only prompt them to move elsewhere in the building and may make detection and subsequent treatment more difficult.

Do not build retaining walls against the home.

Do not build garden beds above vent/weep holes perimeter of house

Do not have watering systems up close to walls of house

DO use non-susceptible material for landscaping

DO have an inspection zone of 50mm to the edge of the slab perimeter of the house if the house is on a slab.

DO repair any water leaks to the house, redirect how water systems and air conditioning over-flows away from the house, preferably to drain