TERMITES: PREVENTION TIPS



Termites are one of the world's most destructive pests. Each year in the U.S. and Canada, these silent destroyers cause an estimated $5 billion in property damage for businesses and homeowners.[1] While there are approximately 50 species of termite found in North America, there are three main types of termites that are of concern for structures. Termites can invade at anytime, so take these proactive measure to help reduce your property's risk.



ID and biology

- Termite appearance can vary based on the type of work the termite does within the colony. The chart on the back side of this sheet provides more detail.
- Flying ants and termite swarmers are often confused. There are a few key differences. Termites have straight antennae, two pairs of wings of equal length, and a uniform body with no "waist line."
- While termites prefer wood, they will consume anything made of cellulose: mulch, paper, insulation, etc.

National Pest Management Association. "Termites: Learn more about termite control and extermination." Accessed February 26, 2024.

Where you might see them

- Signs of damage may be spotted before you see actual termites.
- One of the first signs of termites may be shed wings.
- Mating termites seeking a new colony location will swarm near lights in late afternoon/early evening in warm weather.
- Termites prefer to consume wood; any wood structure could be a target.
- Subterranean termite mud tubes may be visible on the foundation walls.
- Drywood termites may invade attics.
- Damaged wood or wood that sounds hollow when stepped on or knocked could be a sign of termite activity.

What you can do to help

- Call Terminix if you notice flying, swarming termites.
- Ask your Terminix Technician about a termite baiting and monitoring program that can alert to activity.

Tips for prevention

- Repair plumbing issues, leaks, and moisture problems right away.
- Watch for and correct condensation issues around HVAC and air conditioning units.
- Avoid wood-to-soil contact.
- Keep mulch pulled back away from the foundation of buildings.
- Remove excess wood in exterior areas, including construction materials, fallen trees, and stumps/roots.
- Use treated wood for all outdoor construction projects.

Schedule a free consultation today. Call 877.837.6464 or contact us online at terminix.com/commercial.

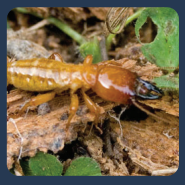
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TMX100371 Rev 07.24

Different roles of termites

Termites are extremely social insects. Their colony is divided into three separate castes - workers, soldiers, and reproductive swarmers. Understanding how termites work can play a critical role in protecting your business.

TYPE OF TERMITE	IDENTIFICATION	WHAT THEY DO
 Workers	▪ White ▪ Soft-bodied ▪ Wingless ▪ Most abundant of the termite types	▪ Primary labor force of a colony ▪ Build tunnels and clear galleries ▪ Tend to eggs and young ▪ Acquire food ▪ Care for and repair the nest
 Soldiers	▪ Large head ▪ Two large jaws ▪ Wingless	▪ Protect the colony from pest invaders ▪ Stand guard to allow swarmers to emerge ▪ Use their jaws to wound invaders ▪ Warn other termites of danger by banging their head against the side of galleries ▪ Some soldier termites can emit a white, glue-like liquid that incapacitates intruders
 Reproductive swarmers	▪ Winged ▪ Have two pairs of wings of equal size ▪ Attracted to light	▪ Swarmers are sexually mature and emerge when a colony has grown large ▪ Emerge from holes in ground, wood, or cracks in structures ▪ Can swarm in large numbers ▪ Will drop their wings after they land and pair off to attempt to start a new colony

Termite activity in the United States



Reticulitermes flavipes • Eastern subterranean termite
Eastern, Midwestern, and Southern U.S.



Incisitermes minor • Western drywood termite
Western U.S.

Cryptotermes spp • Tropical drywood termite
Southeastern U.S. and Atlantic Coast

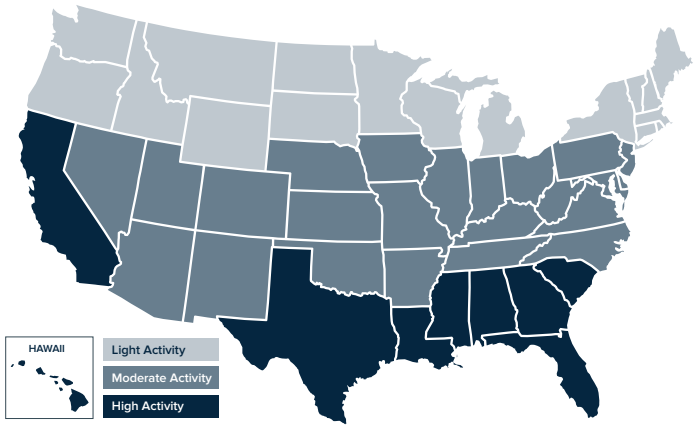


Coptotermes spp • Formosan and Asian subterranean termites
Southeastern U.S., Texas, Hawaii



Zootermopsis angusticollis • Pacific dampwood termite
Pacific coastal U.S.

Neotermes spp. • Florida dampwood termite
Florida



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