

TERMITE

Control



HOW TO

PREVENT TERMITES

TERMITE Control

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

WHAT ARE TERMITES?

HOW TERMITES WORK

TYPES OF TERMITES

DETECTING TERMITES

NATURAL TERMITE CONTROL

OTHER FORMS OF TERMITE CONTROL

PREVENTING TERMITES

CHOOSING AN EXTERMINATOR

CONCLUSION



INTRODUCTION

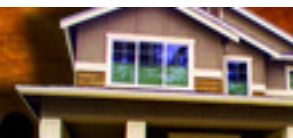
Little bugs and pest in your home can prove to be a minor annoyance. However, most insects that get into your home are fairly easy to control. If you have a fly or two, you can swat it or spray it. If you find a spider web in your home, simply kill the spider and dust away the web. Ants, while a little more problematic, are easy to control with ant bait and spray. If you have you ever had a problem with pests in your home or your business, you know that you do what you can to not only protect your family, but your home or building as well.

With that being said, you also know that some types of pests are easier to get rid of than others, but any home or business owner will tell you the one pest they fear the most is termites. Termites are nasty little pests that are not only difficult to control, but are extremely hard to detect until it is already too late.

Termites can ruin your home, make it hard to sell and can be costly to get rid of after the infestation occurs. In fact, termites are often called the “silent destroyer” and for good reason. A colony of termites that makes its way into your home and wood work can cause thousands of dollars of damage in no time at all. In addition, a lot of termites can survive in hidden places for a long time before you even know they have become a problem.

There are many different types of termites and each one will feed off a different food source, but all termites will thrive on the things most often found in and around homes—food source, dampness and moisture, shelter and optimal temperature. If you have these things, then you should learn more about termites and what they can do to affect your home. You will find that termites do not discriminate either. They can attack large buildings, small homes and any other type of building structure.

The good news is that there are many things you can do to prevent or reduce the chances of termites and there are ways to get rid of them after you are infested.



WHAT ARE TERMITES?

How much do you know about termites? If you have never been personally affected by these little insects, you may have never given them a second thought. However, if you are home owner or a business owner and care about your biggest investment, then you should learn more about termites and what you can do to prevent the destruction that they will cause.

Here is a closer look at the little insect known as the termite.

As mentioned, termites are insects that live in colonies, very similar to ants. Termites will live, work and breed together. Research has shown that in termite colonies, there are an equal number of males and females, even among the soldier caste.

You might also be interested to know that there are 1900 known species of termites that live all around the world. You should also know that termites have a purpose too. While they are certainly destructive when they choose to colonize on your home, they are also very beneficial. They feed off of wood and they are the most basic type of recycling on earth.

Old insects:

Termites are not new to the earth either. Their existence can be traced back to about 350 million years and even over all of those years they have overcome climate change and other environmental changes to evolve and survive.

In addition, unlike other insects, termites have never developed a resistance to pesticides. It is believed that this is the case because the worker termites will taste and process all food sources before it is fed to the queen. This prevents the resistance that some insect develop over time. This is good information for us and it is the reason why many of the treatments that are used today are very effective in controlling and eliminating the termites that are found in and around your building structure.

The Termite Colonies:

In order to understand how termites live and breed and cause so much destruction so quickly, you must understand how the colonies work. It is quite interesting as well.

The insect:

Termites fall under the group of “eusocial” insects, and are normally classified as the taxonomic rank of order Isoptera. Termites are detritivores, meaning they feed off of dead plants, forms of wood, leaf litter, soil and animal dung.

Termites are very similar to ants, wasps and bees because they live and work together. There is a rank of labor with the queen being at the top of the rank. Also like ants, bees and wasps, termites divide the work to be done according to gender and care for the young.

With eusocial insects, the size of the colonies can range to small to huge. There are colonies that are as small as a few hundred and as big as several million. Depending on the size of the colony, there may be one queen or several. All of the queens in a colony lay eggs to help populate the colony in overlapping increments so there is always a fresh source of workers.

Termites also use a sort of “swarm” intelligence to communicate about food sources that are available. Swarm intelligence means that the termites communicate with one another about their environment. They communicate by the pheromones that their body secretes. This will help the other termites in their colony know where to go for warmth, food sources, shelter and moisture---the four things that all termite colonies must have to live and breed successfully.

Working class system:

There are many ways of eradicating termites. Many of the various forms of termite control will depend on the size of the colony. Home termite control has made huge advances once it was understood how the colonies worked as a whole.

When talking about termites, you should understand that they are more than a big crowd of unwanted pests. These pests are highly advanced and organized. They have evolved over the millions of years in order to survive in today’s environment. Part of the termites’ success has a lot to do with their working class system.

Within a termite colony, you will find the queen (or several queens), the nymphs, workers, soldiers and the male reproductive termites, often called the king. All of these different classes of termites are vital to the success of the colony and if you eradicate one class of termites, then there is a good chance that the colony will not survive.

Colony Organization:

Termites live together, so if you find one in your home, you should know that there will be more. It is just a matter of finding their food source. You can kill off the whole colony by killing off a whole class or the whole colony. You cannot kill off a termite colony by killing only a handful of the little pests.

Take a look at how termite colonies are organized.

- Queens:



With ants, bees and wasps, the colonies will only have one queen. This is not always the case when it comes to termites. In many cases, especially if the termite colony is large, there could be more than one queen. The queen is the highest ranking termite in the colony.

If there is more than one queen, then there is the primary queen. This is more often than not, the first termite that founded the colony. The secondary queens, or the other queens, will also help with the egg laying duties and can take over if the primary queen dies. The queen (or queens) are waited on by the worker termites and will mate with the king.

The queen is easy to identify because she is much larger than all of the other termites. She usually has a white colored body and a small, sandy brown head. Her large body enables her to lay millions of eggs each year.