



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. While there are approximately 50 species of termite found in North America, there are only a handful that are of concern for structures. While termites can invade at any time, taking these proactive measures can prevent your property from becoming a target.

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.
- Some termites swarm near lights in late afternoon/early evening.
- 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 Rentokil if you notice flying, swarming termites.

- Ask your Rentokil Specialist 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 at your property.
- Keep mulch pulled back away from the foundation of buildings.
- Remove excess wood from the exterior of your property, including construction materials, fallen trees, and stumps/roots.
- Use treated wood for all outdoor construction projects that are exposed to weather.



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.

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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
 <p>Workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White • Soft-bodied • Wingless • Most abundant of the termite types 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary labor force of a colony • Build tunnels and clear galleries • Tend to eggs and young • Acquire food • Care for and repair the nest
 <p>Soldiers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large head • Two large jaws • Wingless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
 <p>Reproductive Swarmers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winged • Have two pairs of wings of equal size • Attracted to light 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 species and pressure in the U.S.

These are the primary species of concern in the U.S. and where you might find them.



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

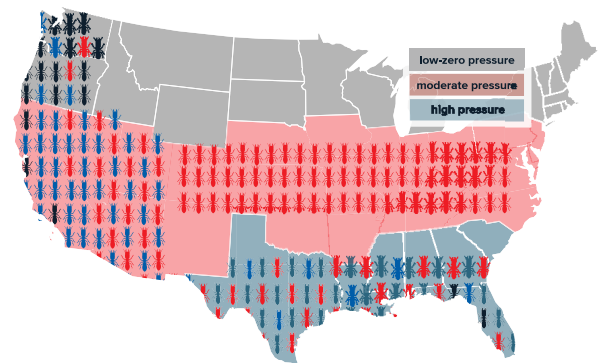


Coptotermes spp • Formosan and Asian subterranean termites
Southeastern U.S., Texas, Hawaii



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

Neoterme spp. • Florida dampwood termite
Florida



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