

# Subterranean Termites

## SIGNS of infestation:

- swarming termites on the window or near indoor light
- termite wings on window sills or in cobwebs
- shelter tubes, which are tunnels constructed by the termites from soil or wood and debris
- wood damage

Examine wood which sounds dull or hollow when hit by a screwdriver or hammer. Check areas you think may have termites with a sharp, pointed tool such as an ice pick to find the termites or their damage.

## CONTROL measures:

- inspection
- prevention of termite entry
- application of chemicals for remedial treatment

The equipment needed for an inspection include a flashlight, ice pick or screwdriver, and protective clothing.

## Outdoors

- Check the foundation of the house and garage for shelter tubes coming from the soil. Look closely around porches, patios, sidewalks, areas near kitchens or bathrooms and hard-to-see places.
- Check window and door frames and where utility services enter the house for termites or wood decay.
- Look behind shrubbery or plants near walls.
- Check any fences, stair carriages or trellises where earth and wood meet.
- Open and check any exterior electrical meter or fuse boxes set into the walls, a common point of infestation.

## Indoors

- Check all doors, window facings, baseboards and hardwood flooring.
- Inspect where plumbing or utility pipes enter the foundation or flooring.
- Also examine the attic for shelter tubes, water leakage, wood rot or wood damage.
- Stains on walls or ceilings may mean that water is leaking and can decay wood and aid termite infestation.

## PREVENTION

Most termite problems can be prevented. The most important thing to do is deny termites access to food (wood), moisture and shelter.

- Have at least a 2-inch clearance between the house and plants.
- Eliminate all wood-to-soil contacts such as trellises, fence posts, stair casings and door facings (they can be put on masonry blocks or on treated wood).
- Use wolmanized wood (pressure-treated wood) so that rain will not damage it.
- Seal openings through the foundation.
- Remove wood scraps or stumps from around foundations.
- Have at least 12"-18" clearance between floor beams and the soil underneath.

## CHEMICAL TREATMENT

Termite treatment often requires specialized equipment, that is why it is recommended that you always use the services of a pest control operator.

Contact your local county Extension office for more information on how to select a termite control service.