

Termite Management

Is Retreating for Termites Necessary?

In addition to knocking out power, phones and destroying personal possessions and property, hurricanes and flooding also may wash away the termite protection of homes and structures. If treated soil around a structure is washed away or covered by large deposits of silt, sludge or muddy soil, the barrier is no longer there or is more than likely no longer effective.

Where flooding has eroded treated soil away from the foundation or deposited untreated soil or sediment on top of the treated area, it will be necessary to apply another treatment. If no erosion occurred or sediment deposited, a second treatment may not be necessary.



Flooding also may have an adverse effect on termite bait systems. Saturated bait material as well as the cellulose material used in the monitoring stations must be replaced. These corrective measures should be performed as part of the next regularly scheduled monitoring of the stations by the pest management company.

If additional treatment is needed, homeowner's insurance may cover some or all of the cost of restoring the termite treatment. Homeowners should check with their insurance companies to see if their policies cover this.

Preventing Formosan Subterranean Termites From Spreading

Wood-to-ground contact is a condition that can attract termites. Debris should be picked up around the house as quickly as possible to avoid having termites relocate near your home. Wet wood or wallboard also can attract termites, especially if brown rot sets in. Brown rot fungi produce attractants that termites move toward.

Formosan subterranean termites in wood (including trees) or other locations above water will survive. As soon as the water recedes, termites will move back down to lower levels and will resume foraging.

Wood taken from damaged buildings and downed trees could be infested with termites. Lumber and other materials that contain cellulose could become infested with termites if left on the ground too long.

Any wood that is salvaged should be stored off the ground and away from the house. All salvaged items made of wood should not be transported out of the area without being inspected for termites.

Homeowners should consider using pressure-treated wood when rebuilding or repairing structures after a hurricane or flood. Pressure-treated wood is not eaten by termites and is resistant to fungus attack.

Disposing of Termite Infested Wood and Debris

Painted wood from construction before 1978 might contain lead and should not be burned. This wood needs to be taken to a facility for proper disposal.

Wood should not be buried. Even pesticide treatments will not prevent buried wood from eventually becoming infested with termites.

Downed trees and large shrubs on the ground should be cut into movable segments and taken to a facility for proper disposal.



Leaves and small branches can be bagged and taken to the landfill, composted, or set out for sanitation trucks to pick up.

Transporting Mulch And Other Wood Debris

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has imposed a quarantine for the Formosan subterranean termite. Under this quarantine, movement of wood or cellulose material, including mulch, is prohibited unless either: 1) it is fumigated or treated for Formosan subterranean termites and is approved by the commissioner or his designee, or 2) written authorization is given by the commissioner or his designee for the movement of the untreated wood or cellulose material from the quarantined parishes. The quarantined parishes include Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington.

Formosan Subterranean Termite Facts

- The Formosan subterranean termite is one of several subterranean termites in Louisiana but is by far the most destructive.
- Formosan subterranean termite colonies can include as many as 10 million members.
- Formosan subterranean termites will chew through many materials, including buried electrical cables, in pursuit of cellulose.

Inspecting and Retreating for Subterranean Termites

A house inspection for subterranean termites is best done by a pest management professional, and a good inspection can occur only after debris is removed and silt is pulled away from the house so that the foundation can be viewed.

All termite treatments that were flooded, including liquid termiticides and bait systems,

have been compromised. New treatments may be required, but it is best to get the advice of a professional. Don't rush into a treatment because it might not be needed. These decisions are made house-by-house.

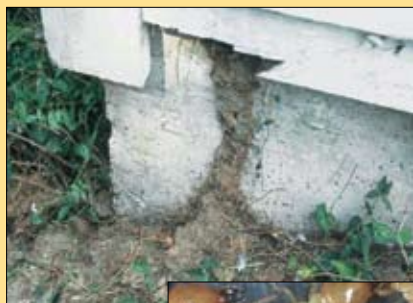
Signs of Formosan Subterranean Termite Infestation

Inside a home:

- Carton nests showing on door frames, edges of walls, floors, ceilings, stairs or other areas.
- Pinpoint holes containing dirt in sheetrock
- Distortion of floor, window or door frames.

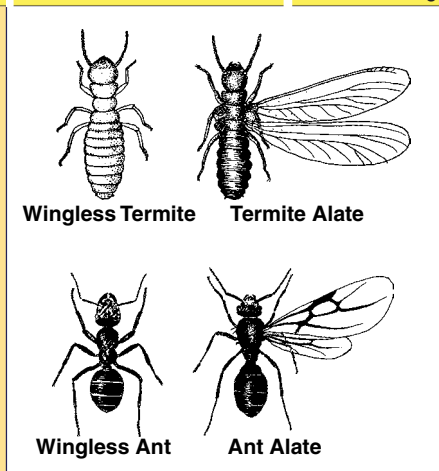
Outside a home:

- Mud tubes over foundation walls, bark on tree trunks, piers and concrete slabs.
- Trees with carton nests near base and exposed on bark.
- Damaged fences, utility poles and landscape timbers.



Differences Between Termites and Ants

	Termites	Ants
Waist	Broad	Very narrow (constricted)
Antenna.....	Straight & beadlike	Elbowed
Wings.....	Equal sized front & hind wings.....	Front wings larger than hind wings



Formosan Subterranean Termite Control & Prevention After Hurricanes and Flooding

Authors:

Entomology Department faculty

Alan Morgan, Ph.D.

Dennis Ring, Ph.D.

Gregg Henderson, Ph.D

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William B. Richardson, Chancellor

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Paul D. Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director

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