

TOP TERMITE TIPS

There are some three hundred separate termite species in Australia but only a handful are a threat to homes.

This handful account for millions of dollars worth of damage and repairs and no doubt contribute to the stress levels of many concerned home owners.

We've always said that you shouldn't worry too much if you simply follow a few rules.

Here are our top tips to keep termites out of your home:

1. Termites are attracted by water (as well as timber) so keeping the perimeter of your home free of damp spots will help to reduce the risk. This can be done with good drainage; ensuring taps don't drip and drips from hot water systems and air conditioners go to a drain or to a bucket.
2. Garden beds shouldn't be against the wall of your home, but let's face it... we all like to have them there, so if that is the case, try to plant native bushes that require minimum water. If you must use a sprinkler system only use it sparingly. Turning on a sprinkler system is like ringing the dinner bell for termites! If you really want to do this, make sure you have some Green Termite Baits™ in the garden beds as a precaution.
3. Every one likes mulch... so do termites. It retains moisture and is a food source too. Ouch! If you have lots of mulch against the walls of your house, then it is breaching any subsoil treated zones... a big no-no; so once again we hope you have some termite baits in place.
4. Piles of timber should be stored off the ground. If your house is raised, never store timber, boxes, magazines, wooden furniture etc on the ground under your house.
5. Dead trees and tree stumps should be removed or inspected for termites regularly and treated if need be. Same goes for retaining walls, even walls constructed from treated timbers, simply because not all treated timbers are termite proof and in reality a timber retaining wall is just another big pile of timber inviting termites to nest and expand near your home.
6. Sheds shouldn't be attached to the walls of your home, especially if they have a back wall to the shed that conceals the wall of the house. Termites can take advantage of the protection the wall provides them and they can build entry leads up to the hidden weep holes in your wall or direct into your house if it is a timber wall.
7. Left over bricks and roof tiles shouldn't be stacked against the walls of your house either. Even though the termites plainly can't eat the brick they can use it to gain entry to hidden areas behind the wall. It only takes a small hole in the mortar for the termites to enter your home.

8. Ensure that you have some effective termite risk reduction in place. New homes under 1 year old are usually pretty safe. Older homes either need to have an effective perimeter treated zone in place or an effective termite bait system in place. Termite treated zones done more than 3 years ago are probably ineffective today for 90% of homes. Termite treated zones where the concrete was drilled and injected are very often faulty. Reason: There is no way to know exactly what is under the concrete. There may be a tree root, broken tiles, bricks or other builders litter, or simply clay soil that won't hold termiticide correctly. For best results termiticide needs to be applied to clean rich organic soil.
9. Don't simply assume because you can't see any termites that your home is free of termites. Have a professional check your home at least once a year. See our newsletter contents guide to find out ways to pick a good termite inspection company.
10. Do you have an early warning system in your home for burglars? What about termites? You should be considering a set of Ec2c Termite Windows to help monitor for termite activity between professional inspections.
11. If you find termites, DON'T DISTURB THEM. Professionals need live and active termites to work with. Whatever you do, please don't spray them with insecticide or anything else for that matter. Call a professional and follow their advice. There is NO RUSH. So DON'T PANIC. If you run with the first quote you get from the first available pestie you are likely to be taken advantage of. The best professionals in the industry are often busy and can't get to you straight away. Cowboys are all too willing to arrive on your doorstep in minutes and take advantage of your fear. Enough said!
12. For more tips in detail, consider purchasing a copy of our manual "Termite Inspection for Home Owners."

If you are ever in doubt about any part of your home, gardens or landscaping then 'just ask us' because we are here to help.

Freecall 1800 6 12345.

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