

TERMITES...united they destroy!!!

Reports by the US department of Fire Underwriters claim that termites strike 5 times as many homes as fires each and every year. Ironically these vicious pests cause more damage on an average in a year than do storms and natural disasters as has been reported by many case studies released by the US Department of Natural Resources. Termite damage is estimated to cost homeowners in excess *5 billion dollars annually*.



Homeowner's insurance can protect against damage from fires and storms, but typically homeowner's insurance does not cover termite damages.

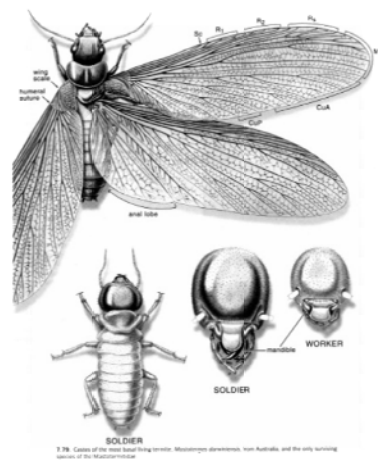


With an estimated 12-13 colonies per square mile, the Southeastern United States is commonly referred to the termite belt.

Termites...their morphology!!! FYI!!!

People often confuse termites with ants because of the similar appearance. There are however several key differences between flying ants and termites.

Termites have four wings of equal length; ants also have four wings however the front pair of wings is longer than the back pair. Termites have straight antennae, ant's antennae are elbowed.



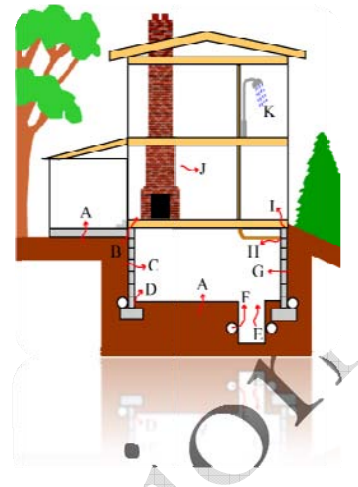
1.78. Casts of the most abundant species, *Macrotermes darwini*, from Australia, and the only feeding larvae of the *Macrotermes*.

Termites...resourceful ways to enter homes!!!FYI!!!

Termites can enter an opening as small as 1/64 of an inch. We typically have a front door and a rear door entry, but subterranean termites have literally thousands of entry points to invade and infest your home.

Destruction...work in progress!!! Not detected!!! FYI!!!

Termites natural instincts to survive have them constantly foraging for new food sources. Worker termites diligently work 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, with their sole purpose to locate new food sources. Once termites gain access to a structure, they can go virtually un-noticed for years, but all the while causing thousands of dollars to your home or business. Termites shield themselves by building mud tubes, therefore creating a temperature controlled environment that allows them to move back and forth freely from their food source (your home or business) to the colony's nest.



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Drywood termites...a brief discourse!!!

Many residents of California, especially those living near the coast or in southern counties, will experience a drywood termite infestation in their home. Unlike subterranean termites which require excess moisture, drywood termites spend almost their entire life cycle inside the sound, dry wood members upon which they feed. Only during brief swarming flights do young adults leave the confines of their galleries to begin new colonies elsewhere. Winged adults or "swarmers", shed wings, ejected pellets, and galleries inside wood are typical signs of a drywood termite infestation. Swarming ants are sometimes confused with termites, but their differences are easy to recognize.



A careful inspection is critical in order to determine the extent of an infestation and location(s) of other possible drywood termite colonies



Drywood termite treatments are divided into three general categories which reflect their areas of coverage: whole-structure, compartmental, and local or "spot" applications

Termites are called social insects because they live together in colonies. Drywood termite colonies contain three types of individuals, each of which has its own characteristic

appearance and its own duties to perform within the colony. The colony prospers as a whole because each type of individual contributes to the welfare of the colony by performing its own duties. The first types of individuals are the Alates or Swarmers. These are the mature males and females ready to swarm out to start new colonies.

The second type of individual is the soldier.

The main function of the soldier termite is defense of the colony against intrusion by ants and other enemies



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