



DOES YOUR HOME HAVE TERMITES?



How to properly identify termites and what to do if you have them?

So you think you may have termites? Did you know that there are other insects that are commonly mistaken for termites, including carpenter ants? This is because of the similarities in their appearance and the damage they cause. Both of these pests can be eliminated and prevented from returning by hiring a professional pest control company, such as Hopper Environmental Services! There are also some easy steps you can take as a home owner to prevent them from dining on your home or business.

Here Is How You Can Properly Identify What Type Of Insect Problem You Have, & How To Fix It!

1

Do I have termites or ants?

Carpenter ants are black or brown and measure up to 1 inch in length. They have pinched waists and elbowed antennae. Termites bodies and antennae are both straight. Both species have four wings, but the termite wings are the same size while the ant wings have significantly larger front wings than rear wings. Termite wings are twice the length of their bodies and are very fragile.

2

Do I have a Carpenter ant infestation?

Carpenter ants can do significant structural damage, but they are easy to identify. There are several clues to help you to diagnose whether or not you have a carpenter ant infestation.

- 1 If you see 10+ ants a day in any room other than the kitchen.
- 2 If you see swarmers. Swarmers are a large number of the winged form of the carpenter ant.
- 3 If you hear a crunching noise coming from inside a window sill, the ceiling or a wall.
- 4 If you see sawdust looking material falling from your ceiling or from any cracks in your home.

Do I have termite damage?

Different types of termites cause different types of damage, so recognizing signs of termite damage will help you pinpoint exactly what type of pest you are having a problem with.

- 1 Subterranean termite colonies can number into the millions. They devour soft wood and tend to eat along the grain. This will cause a distinct honeycombed pattern in the wood. Eliminating subterranean termites as soon as the infestation is discovered is vital because of how quickly they can cause large amounts of damage due to their massive numbers.
- 2 Drywood termites chew both along and against the grain, so they excavate large sections of wood. The damage is usually less than subterranean termites because their colonies only number into the thousands and can take years to reach that number. It is still imperative that they are eliminated quickly to prevent further structural damage.
- 3 If you don't see actual termites, look for other signs of infestation. Do you have floors that sag or buckle? Do you have loose tiles in your flooring or walls? Have you notice pinpoint holes in drywall? Have you discovered damaged wood that crumbles easily or wood that sounds hollow when tapped? These are all signs of an infestation and need to be addressed immediately.

How can I prevent or repair the damage?

There are several steps you can take to prevent or repair existing termite or carpenter ant damage.

- 1 Rid your yard of dead trees and stumps. Decaying wood is a main food source for termites and can quickly attract a colony. Keep firewood or construction materials as far away from your house as possible, and check for signs of pests before bringing these items into your home.
- 2 Take care not to have woody shrubs or spread mulch too close to your home or any other structures. This creates an environment that is ideal for the attraction of termites.
- 3 Depending on the extent of the damage, you can either fill the affected wood with a wood filler or you will need to replace it completely. This may be something you can do on your own, or you may need to hire a contractor to do it for you.
- 4 Have your home regularly inspected for termites. It is a good idea to have a yearly termite contract to keep your home termite free and to catch any potential damage before it becomes a problem. Hopper Environmental Services offers this valuable, convenient service. Use this simple contact form to request more information or to set up your appointment.

Why choose Hopper Environmental Services, Inc.?

HESI will first conduct a thorough inspection of your property. Their friendly and knowledgeable inspectors are well trained and state certified. After a thorough evaluation of your property, they will recommend a treatment or prevention plan customized for your situation. Hopper's professional technicians are trained in the latest treatment techniques and use the most up to date equipment and environmentally responsible materials. This dedication to quality is what sets Hopper Environmental Services apart from the rest. They truly care about you and your greatest investments...your home and/or business!

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