



How to Spot, Stop, and Prevent a Termite Infestation

Termites are property owners' worst nightmare. It's no secret that termites cause billions of dollars' worth of damage each year, and that's on US soil alone. These little critters are almost invisible, making them hard to spot if you're not actively looking for signs of their presence. To make things worse, it's not just wood these little critters feast on. They aren't picky eaters, meaning almost everything your house is made of is fair game. And when you start seeing surface damage, you best believe it's even bigger underneath. Once their work is done, it can literally make your home unlivable!

Getting rid of a termite infestation is one thing. *Knowing* if you have one is another. It can be difficult to spot the signs early on, but it's a skill that can be honed. Stick around longer if you want to know how to protect your property from a termite infestation! This is how to spot a termite infestation, how to stop a termite infestation, and how to prevent termite infestation from damaging your property in the future.

How to Spot a Termite Infestation

Before we prevent one, we have to know how to spot a termite infestation first. Though it can be tricky to spot, here's a few red flags you need to watch out for:

- Termite droppings (looks like piles of sawdust)
- Termite wings
- Mud tubes running across the floor or walls
- Hollow wood
- Loose wallpaper
- Unnatural bulging or expanding of the walls, floor, and/or ceiling
- Tiny, visible mazes in walls and/or furniture
- Termite swarms (usually during spring; if you find them swarming in or near your property, then there's a great chance that they have established a colony somewhere in your property)

Spot a couple of these signs and it's very likely that your property is harboring termites. But don't do a diagnosis just yet. It's best to call in a professional inspector to make the call for you. Termite infestation does share symptoms with water damage after all.

How to Stop a Termite Infestation

So, you've confirmed that termites are in your property. Now you want to know how to get rid of them.

DO IT YOURSELF

There's always the DIY option. There are chemicals and pesticides out there that you can purchase in order to get rid of termites. If you want to prevent more termites from moving in, then we recommend a *liquid barrier treatment* or *poisoned bait*. If you want to take care of the termites already inside your house, then there's always *chemical treatment*. We HIGHLY recommend that you read the labels on the chemicals and pesticides you purchase, and get advice on how to use them properly.

For those of you that aren't big fans of pesticides, then you may want to use or apply a less toxic solution. *Boric Acid*, or *Borax*, for instance, works well with a lot of insects, especially termites. There's also the *beneficial nematodes* method, which works well if your termite problem is a minor one. Basically, beneficial nematodes are parasites that feed on termites. They are 100% safe to humans and non-harmful insects, and are a great solution if you're looking to cure your minor termite infestation and prevent future infestations.

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

If you are unsure of drilling holes in your property and using pesticides or other solutions yourself, then pest control services are your best bet. Contacting a professional pest control company is the best way of getting rid of termites. Of course, it will depend on your budget and situation, but there's a reason they made a career on getting rid of termites. They're GOOD at it.

Now before you make a decision, there are a couple of things you should take into consideration. Things like:

- Your budget
- The severity of your situation (major infestations will cost more than minor infestations)
- Whether or not you are sure you are unable to do it yourself
- The value of your home
- The type of termites you have (most common in the US are drywood termites and subterranean termites)

Choosing a pest control company will be extremely important as well. Do your research, ask for their licenses, and be careful in choosing your exterminators. The best way to know whether or not a company is good is to check customer reviews. If they don't have a testimony page, sites like Angie's List and Yelp will give you a good idea on what their previous customers thought about their services. Never trust what one says about himself.

How to Prevent Future Termite Infestations

Termite treatments can cost a lot, especially if the problem is severe. There's no way of completely removing the risk of a termite infestation, but you can reduce it. So, what are the steps you can take in order to reduce the risk of future termite infestations?

- If you have a little bit more cash to spare, then you can get yourself a *professional prevention plan*. Most pesticide companies (chances are, even the company you called to get rid of your termites) offer prevention services. Be sure to ask your pest control company if you are interested.

But if you're looking for more DIY solutions, then there's a few things you can do.

- **Chemical Prevention** – As stated earlier, *liquid termite barriers* and *poisoned bait* are extremely effective at keeping the termites away.
- **Natural Prevention** – *Beneficial nematodes* and *diatomaceous earth* are as natural as you can get. They aren't pesticides, and are 100% safe (except of course for termites).
- **Removing Their Food Source** – While you're not going to be able to 100% remove all wood in your home, it's best if you tidy up a bit. Move the firewood outside, clean your gutters of any leaves and sticks, and make sure no wood is touching any soil, if possible.
- **Lower the Moisture Levels** – We covered earlier that water damage shares the same symptoms as termite infestations. But did you know that moisture also attracts termites? Check your drains, pipes, and faucets. Make sure there's as little moisture in your home as possible.



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