

## Termites – Prevention is better than the cure.

It is estimated that the cost of termite damage, in Victoria alone, is well over \$300 million dollars per year! As a pest controller this figure does not surprise me, since we frequently see homes with damage bills in the tens of thousands.

Sadly almost every incidence of termite attack could have been prevented (or the damage been significantly reduced) if certain simple precautions had been taken.

First though let's look at a few pertinent facts about termites.

1. Termites eat wood and are particularly attracted by decaying timber.
2. Termites travel (mostly) through the soil.
3. Foraging termites will never deliberately expose themselves to sun-light.

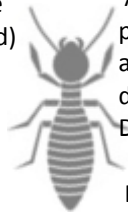
This is by no means a definitive list, but certainly provides enough detail for the moment.

Taking these points into consideration; here's a basic run-down on what you can do to reduce the risk of attack.

- Ensure that your home has a minimum of contact with the soil, including gardens.



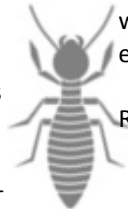
- Where it must touch the earth (stumps, poles etc.) use treated timbers, steel or concrete.
- Employ “ant-caps” or similar barriers between stumps and the main structure.
- Provide adequate ventilation in the sub-floor and remove/prevent any moist areas.
- Replace any decaying timber.
- Have regular Timber Pest Inspections, at least once every 12-months.



A Timber Pest Inspection Report (when properly performed) will provide you with advice on these sorts of actions, specific to your property. Quite often the best defence against termites is regular inspections and a bit of DIY work around the house.

Here's a link for those who would like to know more:

[http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/Tenants\\_and\\_home\\_owners/Home\\_building\\_and\\_renovating/The\\_building\\_process/Termites.html](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/Tenants_and_home_owners/Home_building_and_renovating/The_building_process/Termites.html)



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PEST CONTROL

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