

Termites, what the experts say.

Here is an expert from a recent publication by CSIRO – it provides a very concise overview for homeowners about termites.

Termites are sometimes referred to as ‘white ants’ because of their creamy colouring and ant-like appearance. There are over 350 species of termites in Australia of which some 20 species can damage timber in houses.

In nature termites assist in the recycling of organic matter and nutrients back to the soil.

Termites avoid light and rarely come out into the open. Often termites are found within timbers where they leave a wafer thin layer to protect themselves from the outside environment. Sometimes they conceal themselves within mud-like tubes or galleries.

Termites in the home?

Homes should have regular inspections of all accessible timber and potential termite entry points. Inspections should be carried out by a licensed pest controller who can identify timber problems and advise on individual solutions.

Local councils or licensed pest controllers should be able to advise on the frequency of inspections.

If termite damage is found in the home, don’t panic. Do not disturb the termites by using household sprays or removing infested wood.

There is no immediate threat to the house, so take time to investigate the size and nature of the problem as well as all the available options.

At certain times of the year homeowners may notice winged termites in and around their house. This is the termites’ annual flight from the nest.

This does not mean that there is a termite colony attacking the house. There may however be a nest nearby if there are large numbers of these termites.

Ray Lakeman – Manager, TermiteWatch.

