

R. DANA
PEST CONTROL

877-9-NO-BUGS
(877-966-2874)



IS THERE AN ANSWER TO THE TERMITE QUESTION?

About this time of year, I start receiving questions from concerned homeowners and home buyers in regards to the possible invasion of termites.

Here are samples to the most common questions and answers to your termite questions:

What do termites look like?

Termites are often mistaken for flying ants; however, there are some noticeable differences as long as you don't feel funny getting up close and personal. Once you witness a swarming, which can last only up to 45 minutes, examine the wings. Are they iridescent; are there two sets of wings of equal size and longer than the body? Are the antennae straight? Lastly, termites are thicker and less defined in the waist than regular ants.

I have never seen any termites and my house is fairly new so why would I need an inspection?

Well, just because you don't see them doesn't mean you don't have them. Termites live in the ground below the frost line but above the water table. A colony consists anywhere from 60,000 to 1 million workers and soldiers. Once a colony becomes too large, they swarm to make new colonies or perhaps a satellite colony. The swarming takes place usually when the Forsythia blooms in early spring or when temperatures climb above 50o and the ground is able to thaw. A colony can exist under your foundation for several years without being detected until they swarm. New homes can be at risk as well. Contractors leave behind debris under stoops, buried stumps near the foundation and the wood framing for concrete sidewalks and A/C pads. Even a new house should inquire about getting a termite inspection. Consider it a part of your spring cleaning and maintenance. It is best to catch them early if possible. Don't be fooled into signing a contract for a year of service just for a free inspection in return. Termite inspections will cost you less than dinner and a movie for two.

I am buying a house and the real estate engineer said that he will advise me if the house has termites or not. Is this recommended?

Not unless your home inspector carries a category 7C license issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Ask to see his license. You may choose to call the D.E.C. and ask them to look to see if he is in compliance with N.Y. State (845-356-3097). He must be licensed. My advice is to hire a professional, **experienced**, licensed and insured business that carries the 7C license. Not all exterminating companies carry termite licenses either. Always ask for proof. This can only benefit you. You want experienced eyes that can locate the areas in the structure where termites would strike and he/she can inform you of conditions that may be conducive to termites and already exist in the property that you are purchasing. If a termite treatment was previously done on the home, make sure you **get ALL paperwork**. You want to know how much the yearly renewal is and what was treated and what the guarantee is. Remember, this is a major financial purchase, don't take short-cuts in order to cut corners and costs especially where it can end up costing you thousands down the road.

Is there something I should be looking for? What can I do to help prevent them?

Look in crawl spaces, if your home has one, and inspect for mud that seems to be climbing up the wall. The mud will be the diameter of a pencil. Damp areas around the foundation, construction debris left behind and perhaps wings that are caught in spider webs in the dark, damp corners of your basement. This is just a start. If you see any of these signs, call a professional to come and make an inspection. You can take the following preventative measures to help you lower your chances of termite invasion: Stack all firewood away from the house or wood structure. Do not store any wood/lumber under decks or against structures. Supports of porches, patios, decks, or any structure should not be in direct contact with soil. Pressure treated wood should be used; however, even treated wood has a limited protection period and will be vulnerable. Move all wood mulch, even treated cedar, redwood etc, and a foot away from your foundation. Place a moisture barrier and decorative stone looks just as nice against the foundation. Repair gutters and leaders that may be dripping or leaking water against your foundation. Make sure that footing drains are not blocked with rodent nests and are properly screened to prevent rodent harborages. Let the sun shine in and open up landscaping that is producing too much shade and moisture against the foundation.

If you feel that your home may be susceptible because your neighbor has had termites or you see that there are areas around your home that may be conducive to termites, call a professional and ask about a Termite Monitoring System for your home. Have them come out to your property and show you the possible problem areas. Remember, it is better to invest in an inspection now rather than run into structural replacements later.

Recently, we have found that termites are causing leaks in pool liners. Small pinholes in the liner equal costly repairs and replacement. If you are thinking of putting in a pool in the coming years, consider the precautions you can take before digging that hole. A termite pre-treat can be done before the liner is put in place. This will greatly reduce the risk of termites damaging your liner. If in fact your pool already exists, there is monitoring program that can be installed to help in early detection of termites that may forage in the first 4 to 7" of the soil for a food source.

We are now accepting appointments for termite inspections. A yearly inspection should be performed to a home just as you would do by having your furnace and air-conditioners checked for the season. An inspection will cost \$125.00 without a WDI form and \$135.00 to include the WDI form. The WDI form is required by the bank if you are purchasing a property and is the sole responsibility of the buyer to acquire this form. If you are buying a home, please be sure to ask for this service.

We are offering a 10% discount to all our current customers if they make their appointment by March 31, 2006.

Kristine Effaldana (Dana)
R. DANA PEST CONTROL CORP.

*Payment is required on the day of inspection. Please note that the inspection will not guard your home against termites and is a visual inspection only. Prices are for single family homes with attached garages only. Prices will differ for multifamily homes. Additional structures on the property may be inspected at an additional fee.