

Wood Destroying Insects and Termites



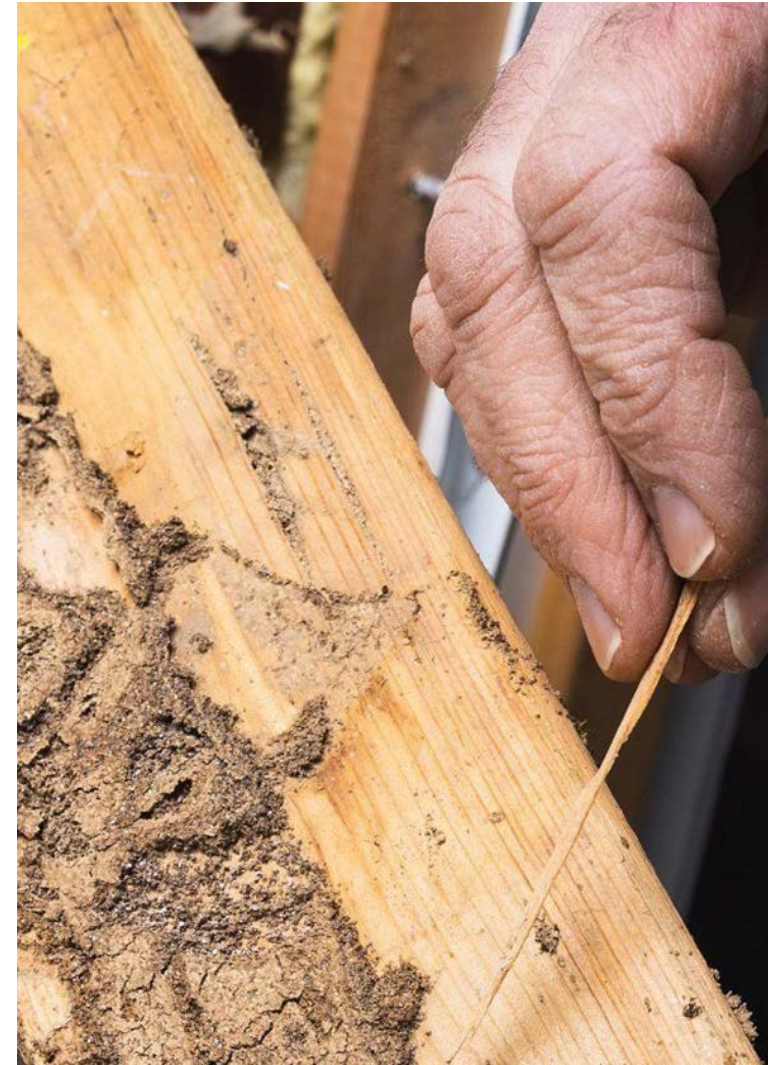
Types of Wood-Destroying Insects

There are several types of wood-destroying insects. Each one can be incredibly destructive if not identified and dealt with properly. If you suspect you are dealing with any of the following, contact a local pest professional to have your home thoroughly inspected for a nest or colony.

TERMITES

Perhaps the best known wood-destroying insect, termites cause more than \$5 billion in damage to U.S. homes every year. Termites live in 49 of the 50 states and will feed on anything cellulose based. If you have a termite problem, you've probably encountered one of these telltale signs:

- Discarded wings
- Termite pellets
- Termite swarms
- Mud tubes
- Damaged or hollow wood
- Cracked or distorted paint
- Discolored or drooping drywall



CARPENTER ANTS

Another fairly common wood-destroying insect is the carpenter ant. Carpenter ants are large, black, and have a big set of jaws to chew through wood. While carpenter ants don't typically bite, they will use their jaws in defense if they feel threatened. Their presence poses the biggest threat to your home and property. Carpenter ants don't work as rapidly as termites, but they can cause substantial damage if left unchecked. Ants are very common throughout the United States, so don't be worry if you see one or two throughout your property. The presence of winged ants or large quantities of ants in the fall and winter months may be a warning sign that there's a carpenter ant colony nearby.



LYCTID BEETLES

Another wood-destroying insect found throughout the United States is the lyctid beetle. Often referred to as the powderpost or wood-boring beetle, it makes its home in raw hardwood. Powderpost beetles get their name from the way they can literally turn wood into powder—a truly troublesome thought. If you have hardwood trees like oak, ash, walnut, hickory, or poplar in your yard, you should definitely be on the lookout for these destructive critters. Lyctid beetles leave holes 1/16–1/8" in diameter wherever they make their homes, and you'll of course find their namesake powder wherever they're present.

How to Prevent Wood-Destroying Insects

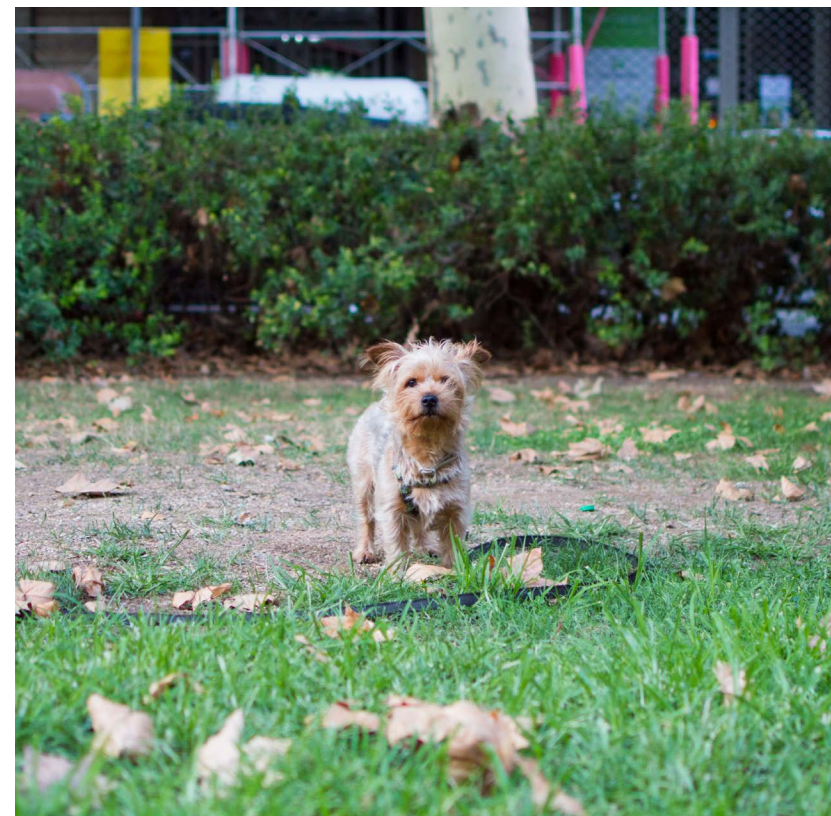
Given the detrimental effects each of these insects has on your home and property, it's wise to implement a few preventive practices into your routine. Here's how you can help keep your home and property free of wood-destroying insects.

KEEP YOUR YARD CLEAR OF DEBRIS

Wood-destroying insects feed on wood in all different forms. Debris in your yard will seem like a buffet to any number of the species listed above. Eliminate the temptation by properly disposing of yard clippings, twigs, and other debris. If you have a wood pile, keep it stored as far away from your home as possible.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF ROTTING WOOD

Rotting wood is the perfect source of food and shelter for wood-destroying insects. Promptly address rotting wood on your property, and don't allow burn piles to sit idly for too long. Otherwise, you could unintentionally create a luxury resort for these insects.





ADDRESS EXCESS MOISTURE PROMPTLY

Termites in particular thrive in a moist environment. Don't allow excess water to collect in your yard or leaky pipes to go untreated in your home. Use a dehumidifier in your basement or crawlspace to help reduce the moisture in termite-prone areas of your home.

SEAL ENTRY POINTS IN YOUR SIDING AND FOUNDATION

On a regular basis, check your siding and foundation for cracks or gaps. Seal these with caulk, and continue to monitor the area for worsening conditions. Wood-destroying insects can make their way into your home through even the smallest of openings, so it's important not to overlook any area where they might get in.

MAINTAIN YOUR LANDSCAPING AND SHRUBBERY

Trees, bushes, and shrubbery—not to mention the soil and mulch surrounding them—make a perfect shelter for wood-destroying insects. If your landscaping grows close to your house, keep it well maintained to prevent unwanted guests from inviting themselves all the way into your home.



Professional Pest Control

INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

If you know your home is under attack, schedule an inspection with your local pest control company. A pest control professional can examine your home for problem spots, treat the affected areas, and get your home back to normal in no time.

PREVENTIVE CARE

Before you ever have an issue with invasive pests, consider enrolling in a preventive care program. Regular treatment and inspections can help set your home up for success in the fight against wood-destroying insects and other pests. Contact your local pest control professionals to learn more about the preventive care programs available to you.

REAL ESTATE INSPECTION

If you are planning to purchase a home in the near future, your local pest control agency can conduct a termite inspection before you buy. A termite inspection can help you make a sound decision and prevent you from a tremendous headache down the road.



For all of your pest control needs, **Trust Springer!**

If you need pest control services, contact Springer in Des Moines. Our experts can help you in your fight against wood-destroying insects. Whether you're looking for pest elimination, preventive care, or real estate inspections, the team at Springer has everything you need for effective pest control. Set up a free inspection to learn more about how we can be of service to you.



Sources: <https://blog.trustspringer.com/buying-a-house-3-reasons-why-your-termite-inspection-matters> | <https://blog.trustspringer.com/why-you-need-a-termite-inspection-for-real-estate-transactions> | <https://blog.trustspringer.com/5-ways-to-protect-your-home-from-termites> | <https://blog.trustspringer.com/buying-a-house-3-reasons-why-your-termite-inspection-matters> | <https://blog.trustspringer.com/buying-a-house-3-reasons-why-your-termite-inspection-matters> | <https://blog.trustspringer.com/faq-about-carpenter-ants> | <https://blog.trustspringer.com/identify-prevent-and-control-lyctid-beetles-this-summer> | <https://www.houselogic.com/organize-maintain/home-maintenance-tips/detect-termites-other-wood-destroying-insects/> | <https://insightpest.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-termites-part-1/> | <https://www.allgoodservices.com/the-good-news-blog/post/the-importance-of-termite-inspections>