



Termite Facts and Tips

Americans spend more than \$5 billion every year treating for termites and repairing the damage they cause. Much of this can be avoided if regular inspection by a licensed professional is called in once a year. Typically this is a FREE service to have your home properly inspected. Because termites never rest or stop eating, damage can become extensive enough that repairs have to be performed to maintain structural integrity if it goes unattended. Having your home inspected annually can help mitigate structural damage and repairs.

Termite Facts

- Termites have been found across 70% of the world and have survived environmental changes for more than 250 million years, adjusting to most any climate.
- Termites are found in every state in the United States except Alaska.
- Termites feed on cellulose, which can be found in high moisture wood.
- Termite damage can go undetected for many years.
- Termite damage is not covered by most homeowner's insurance policies.
- Some termite species need only a space one-sixteenth of an inch wide—the thickness of a piece of paper to enter a home.
- Signs of a termite infestation include wood damage, such as small holes in wood; crumbling drywall; sagging doors; swarms of termites (usually occurring in spring); and piles of discarded wings.
- There are 5 major types of termites throughout the United States: Eastern Subterranean termites, Western Subterranean termites, Desert Subterranean termites, Formosan Subterranean termites and Drywood Termites.

Termite Maintenance Tips

- Repair any water leaks and moisture problems. *Water damage walls, leaks in roof, attic, bathrooms and sink areas create favorable conditions for termites to flourish*
- Clean gutters and downspouts. *Keep gutters free flowing to avoid clogs which may eventually lead to water damage.*
- Drain water away from exterior walls and foundation. *Make sure drain spouts and air conditioner drainage lines flow away from the home. Use splash blocks to prevent soil erosion around foundation.*
- Keep shrubs, trees and wood mulch away from foundation. *Shrubs, trees and mulch provide shelter and moisture, which attract termites. Prune trees and shrubs away from exterior walls and make sure mulch is no closer than six inches from foundation, walls, etc.*
- Keep stucco and wood or vinyl siding above the finished soil level. *Make sure there is at least a six-inch clearance, otherwise termites have easy access into your home.*
- Firewood should be stored away from exterior walls. *Termites, beetles and carpenter ants will infest stored firewood, so keep this away from the home and don't leave indoors until just before burning.*

Call today for a FREE inspection
818-752-9989