

Termite Prevention & Control

Prevention: don't create an environment that is likely to attract termites!

- 1) **Do not place plants too close to structures.**
When plants are growing close to buildings they provide food and moisture for termites. It also makes it difficult to see any signs of damage.
- 2) **Remove potential food sources.**
Don't leave lumber, wood, cardboard, paper products and plant debris around structures. Any time there is direct wood to soil contact it creates an ideal condition for termite infestation.
- 3) **Eliminate moisture sources.**
Leaky faucets, sprinklers, downspouts ending too close to structures create ideal soil conditions around your home for termites and could physically move chemical treatments away from your home.
- 4) **Perform regular termite inspections.**
Regular termite inspections will allow you to identify areas conducive to termites. Early detection will limit damage and save you on costly repairs.

Control: getting rid of termites.

- 1) **Soil insecticides** – chemicals are applied to the soil creating a barrier or toxic zone around and below the structure. Termites are killed when they come into contact with the toxic chemicals. Repellent chemicals will not necessarily eliminate the termites but it will keep them from coming into the treated area.
- 2) **Physical barriers** – create an obstacle that the termites cannot penetrate.
 - A) *Basaltic Termite Barrier* – perfectly sized particles of rock packed underneath the house to form a barrier that the termites are unable to penetrate.
 - B) *Termi-mesh* – stainless steel screen with holes too small for the termites to penetrate. The screen is installed under the house to provide a barrier. It can also be used to for cold joints in concrete and other problem areas.
- 3) **Bait stations** – Monitoring stations are placed around the home. Bait tubes are introduced to the stations in which termite activity is detected. Termites feed on the bait, which is spread through the colony by workers who feed the rest of the colony. The chemical interferes with the further development of termites, killing them.