



How To Get Rid of Subterranean Termites

By DoMyOwn staff

Subterranean Termite Control

Subterranean termites have the potential to cause more extensive damage over a shorter period of time than any other termite species. They have been called the most destructive wood pest in the US, causing more damage on a whole than fires and storms combined, sometimes consuming up to 15 pounds of wood in a week.

Know Your Enemy!

Learn more about your pesky opponents' savvy ways by reading up on some basic identification and biology [Subterranean Termite ID & Biology](#)

Inspection First

Before treating for termites, you will need to get a pretty good idea of where the problem areas/ potential problem areas on your property are by looking for the common signs of infestation.

Signs of Infestation

1. **Swarmers**- the first sign of an infestation may be "swarmers" around window sills and lights
2. **Wings** - piles of discarded wings on window sills or in cobwebs
3. **Mud Tunnels**- appearing vertically on the interior or exterior of foundation walls
4. **Damaged Wood** - look for tunnels that follow the grain (see illustration for typical subterranean termite damage)

More detailed instructions for home inspection are available at [Do Your Own Termite Inspection at Home](#)

Suggested Treatments for Subterranean Termite Control

- **Mechanical Alteration**- Because Subterranean termites thrive on moisture, you should try to prevent water from accumulating at the foundation of your home if you can. There are several ways to do this include installing gutters, splash blocks, or downspouts. Creating an artificial slope will allow water to drain away from the structure. Humidity in crawl spaces may be reduced with proper ventilation.
- **Sanitation**- Keep trees, vines, and trellises trimmed so they are not touching the structure, and never pile or bury extra wood scraps or lumber near the home.
- **Baiting Treatment**- Termite baiting is a fairly simple process and can be used as a tool to monitor termite activity early on before infestations flare up. Installing bait stations around your home provide excellent control when combined with a barrier/soil treatment. Find out how to instigate a successful baiting program at [Do Your Own Termite Baiting](#).

-Used to hold the Advance termite monitoring base and wood base to detect subterranean termites.

FirstLine Termite Defense System Kit- Complete Starter Kit for the Firstline Termite Defense System. Everything is included to provide your own Termite Control.

1. **Soil Treatment**- Apply a termite treatment in the soil surrounding the structure to form a continuous barrier that will prevent subterranean termites from entering your home through gaps, cracks, crawl spaces, or wooden elements in the foundation. [Barrier/ Soil Treatments for Termite Control](#) discusses how to do your own preventative barrier and soil treatments both pre- and post-construction, using products like [Timbor](#), [Termidor](#), and [Cyper WP](#).
2. **Wood Treatment**- Treat infested wood directly with an insecticide borate preservative such as Timbor or Boracare. These products are also a great preventative treatment for wood that is not yet infested. You can find out more about wood treatments at the following link: [How To use Timbor](#), or by closely following the instructions found on the product label.

Timbor

A wood preservative for the protection and treatment of lumber against fungal decay and wood destroying insects.

Recommended Products for Subterranean Termite Control:

- **FirstLine Termite Defense System Kit**- Complete Starter Kit for the Firstline Termite Defense System. Everything is included to provide your own Termite Control.

- [**Advance Termite Monitor Bait Station**](#)- Used to hold the Advance termite monitoring base and wood base to detect subterranean termites.
- [**Timbor**](#)- A wood preservative for the protection and treatment of lumber against fungal decay and wood destroying insects.
- [**Termidor SC**](#)- Termidor SC is one of the most effective termiticides and ant control products available today.
- [**Premise 2 Termiticide**](#)
- [**Premise Foam Termiticide**](#)

View all [Termite Control](#) Products