

How to Identify Termite Damage and Infestations



MUD TUBES

Subterranean termites construct their own 'highways' out of mud tubes to transport the wood they consume to the soil. Wood and dirt are used to make these mud tubes, which are about as wide as a pencil.

HOLLOW WOOD

If you tap or knock on your wood and hear a hollow or thudding sound, it's likely infested with termites. You can also test your wood with a screwdriver. If you press the screwdriver into the wood and it easily yields, this is not a good sign.



FRASS

Termite droppings or frass may appear as small, granular oval pellets on your door frames, baseboards, and windowsills. If you see any around your house, that's an indication that you have a termite infestation at hand.

SCATTERED WINGS

When subterranean termites embark on a mission to establish a new colony, they shed their wings, frequently in piles. If you notice a swarm of scattered wings, they could be termites.



LIVE TERMITES

It's possible to occasionally come across some live termites. Here are some ways to identify termites:

- Termites have relatively straight antennae.
- The termite abdomen is broadly joined to the thorax — no waist.
- Winged termites have two pairs of wings (front and back) that are almost equal in length.

Other Signs of Termite Infestations:

Clicking Sounds

You might notice an odd clicking noise coming from inside your walls. In order to warn their fellow termites of impending danger, soldier termites will bang their heads against the wood and tremble violently and therefore create these odd sounds.

Peeling Paint

Termites wreak havoc on drywall by allowing moisture to enter the space between the surface and the paint, causing the paint to bubble or peel. Although there are other reasons why your paint might bubble, if you notice this along with other signs, you might have a termite infestation.



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