



# Customer Bulletin

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## Western Subterranean Termites (*Reticulitermes Hesperus*)

Termites can munch into your life savings



## MUNCHING MACHINES

### DON'T LET THEM MUNCH YOU OUT OF HOUSE OR HOME!

Termites are beneficial to our ecosystem and play a crucial role in degrading *wood and other organic materials with cellulose components*. But these tiny creatures are an adversary to our homes, monuments, and historic places that are constructed with wood components.

These munching machines cause more damage than fires, storms, and earthquakes combined. If left undetected, termites will munch their way between studs, floor joists, rafters etc. before the damage is externally visible.

### TERMITES: UNINVITED GUESTS - HOW DID THEY GET TO MY HOUSE?

Three key factors that attract termites toward a structure include FOOD, TEMPERATURE, and MOISTURE. Generally, termites use the thermal shadow cast by vegetation and houses to seek cooler areas for foraging activity. Termites will feed on wood, paper, cardboard and plant debris including living and dead tissues. Termites are susceptible to moisture loss and they overcome this obstacle by *building shelter tubes*.

### THE KEY STEP FOR EARLY DETECTION OF TERMITE ACTIVITY

**Regular Inspection** - Western Exterminator Company has qualified Termite Inspectors who are *licensed and trained* to detect termites, wood boring beetles, and fungal damage. Typical inspection procedures include inspecting the exterior and interior crawl space and attic for any wood destroying organism or the evidence of their activity. *Regular inspections for termite activity can give you peace of mind by finding termites before they do much damage to your home*. We recommend homes be inspected every three years.



### UP CLOSE – A LOOK AT THE TERMITE WORLD

Termite colonies primarily consist of three castes: Workers, Soldiers and Reproductives. Worker termites are small creamy white wingless insects that perform numerous tasks within the colony. Some of the important tasks performed by the workers include finding food sources, taking care of young termites, repairing galleries, and aiding the soldiers to defend the colony. Soldier termites defend the colony against ants and other predators. The reproductive caste consists of queen, king (primary reproductives), and secondary reproductives. At certain times of the year, a colony will produce winged termites called **SWARMERS**. In the Western U.S., emergences of swarmers correspond with spring rainy seasons (Feb. - May) and that's when you see winged termites around window-sills or inside homes.

**1-800-WEST-EXT (1-800-937-8398)**



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