



## Characteristics

Subterranean termites are ground-inhabiting, social insects that live in colonies and feed on cellulose or wood. They travel through distinctive mud tubes to reach food sources above the soil surface, unseen by predators. Any damage to these tubes is quickly repaired. Full-grown workers are soft-bodied, wingless and creamy white; about 1cm in length. Once a year, maybe twice, new colonies are formed when winged reproductives emerge in flight or swarm. Flying ants and swarming termites are often difficult to tell apart. After a flight though, termites shed their wings and return to the ground; flying ants will drop to the ground and die without shedding. Looking closely, the termite swarmers appear to have only two body parts, relatively straight antennae and two pair of wings that are longer than the body.

## Infestation

Although a termite swarm occurs within an hour or two, this important sign should not be ignored, as these insects are hard at work year round. Once the swarmers have retreated, only a trained individual can find signs of a termite infestation. A colony of subterranean termites may be up to 18-20 feet below the soil surface to protect it from extreme weather conditions. The termite colony is made up of reproductives, soldiers, and workers reaching its maximum size in approximately 4 to 5 years and may include 60,000 to 200,000 workers.

## Before Treatment

1. Plan to be away for at least **6 to 8 hours\*** after application, unless otherwise directed by the technician. This includes most pets. Fish tanks should be covered and the filter turned off. Plants are ok.
  - \* Small children 2 & under and people with respiratory problems or pregnant should be out **overnight** according the BC Ministry of Environment guidelines. Apply these same guidelines to special-needs pets.
2. Identify utility feed lines (water, gas, hydro, etc) in the area
3. The technician would appreciate clear access to the inside and outside walls of area(s) identified for treatment, possibly removing baseboards and pulling back carpet.

## Application

Proper treatment to stop this infestation includes creating a chemical barrier. The customized treatment may include saturation of soil or wood around foundation walls and/or slab. Small access holes may be drilled to apply the chemical under the concrete and stop the termites from being able to enter. Foam sometimes is used to "carry" the pesticide into gaps where traditional liquids are not able to get.

## What to expect

You may see termites, even reproductives, evacuating the colony for up to six weeks. This will vary depending on colony size and food supply.

## Guarantee

Our treatment carries a 3-year Guarantee in the area of treat.



Thank you for choosing *V.I. Pest Doctor*