

Homebuyers: Beware Of Termites

(NAPSA)—According to the National Association of Realtors, there were 6.1 million existing-home sales in 2003, up 9.6 percent from a record setting 5.6 million in 2002. As more people purchase homes, they need to be aware of how to protect their investments from termite destruction. Termites don't discriminate—whether a house is newly constructed or 150 years old, it's still susceptible to the work of termites.

Each year, termites cause more than \$2.5 billion in treatment and repair costs. Their work can significantly lower the value of a property. What's worse, these costs are rarely covered by homeowner's insurance.

Two types of damaging termites

There are two main types of termites: drywood and subterranean. Drywood termites are found primarily in California, Florida, Arizona, Hawaii and coastal regions. They need no contact with the soil to survive, living within and feeding upon dry sound wood. Subterranean termites, however, are found throughout the United States. These termites require moisture, moderate temperature and protection in order to survive, building mud tubes as they leave the soil to search for food.

What can I do?

While homeowners can watch for signs of termites—swarms, discarded wings, mud tubes—only a pest management professional (PMP) can provide a comprehensive inspection. When termites are discovered, PMPs recommend treatment options.

If your home is infested with drywood termites, you have the



Whole structure fumigation is proven to eliminate drywood termites.

choice between treating only the accessible wood or the entire structure. Whole-structure fumigation with Vikane® gas fumigant is the only proven solution for 100 percent control of drywood termite infestations throughout an entire structure, including infestations hidden in inaccessible wood. For more information on whole-structure fumigation, visit www.termitetenting.com.

If subterranean termites are attacking your home, you have different options—liquid chemical treatments or baits. The Sentricon® *Termite Colony Elimination System* is a baiting system that offers the best option because it provides proven termite colony elimination.¹ It is less disruptive than other treatments because no trenching or drilling is required, and it uses just grams of termite bait only when and where termites are present to eliminate a colony. Additionally, through regular monitoring by an Authorized Operator, the Sentricon System provides the opportunity for long-term protection by detecting and eliminating future colonies. For more information on the Sentricon System, visit www.signsoftermites.com.

¹Extensive field tests completed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Forest Service and research conducted by 18 universities.

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