

# WOOD DESTROYING INSECTS

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Wood destroying insects play an important role in nature. Termites, carpenter ants, carpenter bees, and powder post beetles are part of nature's "recycling team." When a tree dies or loses a limb, the insects come to break down the debris and replenish the environment. Unfortunately, these wood destroying insects do not know the difference between a stump and a house.

Termites can do enough damage to the structure of a house making it unsafe to live in.

## WHERE WOOD DESTROYING INSECTS ARE FOUND

Conditions such as high moisture levels, earth to wood contact, and inadequate ventilation are conducive to wood destroying insect activity. Elimination of these conditions may reduce the likelihood of infestation. Storage of firewood next to or in the house is not recommended. Wood debris in the crawl space next to the house should be removed.

We can advise you on other conditions specific to your home.

Subterranean Termite



Carpenter Ant



Drywood Termite



Powder Post Beetle



Carpenter Bees



## INSECTS THAT INVADE YOUR HOME

**Termites**—these insidious and ravenous insects live in the soil and attack from the foundation up. Termites do not generally like light air. A homeowner is not likely to know they have an infestation without an inspection.

**Carpenter Ants**—are a polymorphic species. This means that there are different sizes of ants; all of which are carpenter ants. The majority of the carpenter ants are black, but they may have red or brown coloration. A colony will have between 6 and 25,000 individuals. They do not eat wood, they excavate the wood to create nests.

**Carpenter Bees**—easily confused with bumble bees. They are capable of making holes in people's home. The hole is 3/8 to 1/2 inch round and looks like it was made by a drill.

**Powder Post Beetles**—are rarely seen, and are usually found in a home by the presence of small exit holes in sills, joists, or the sub-floor. A homeowner may notice a pile of fine powdery frass under those holes.



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