



Tenant Fact Sheet: Preventing Termites in your Home



Termite attacks on homes are more common than you would think, particularly when there's more rain than normal, creating a damp environment.

The three key items that attract termites to your home are:

1. Moisture in, under and around the home
2. Termite food, including timber & wood, stored close to or against the home
3. Unkept gardens

Once termites take hold, it is very difficult to eradicate the problem.

Taking steps to prevent termites is easy and a great way to protect yourself and your home. Here are some tips on how you can help SEARMS to protect your home from structural damage.

Reduce moisture in, under and around the home

An increase in rain in an already damp environment can create a range of issues for homeowners, including termites. Termites thrive in damp environments!

To prevent termites, here are some simple tips to minimise moisture:



Avoid tampering with the ground level under and around your home - it should slope away from the home



Do not install a watering system or water plants against the home



Maintain roof gutters and downpipes so they are not leaking



Ensure taps in and around the home and garden do not leak

Please report any evidence of termites to SEARMS.

Eliminate termite food sources

To prevent termites around your home, remove these items:



Wood mulch – do not use wood mulch directly around the home



Firewood – do not stack firewood against your home, keep it away and off the ground



Timber & cardboard waste – if you cannot dispose of immediately, store it off the ground away from your home

These attract termites and will grow the colony before they even attack the home!

Unkept gardens create plenty of homes for termites

Keeping your yard tidy and free of debris is important for two reasons:

1. A messy garden creates plenty of spaces for termites to nest
2. An untidy yard makes it harder for you to notice signs of termites around your home

Here are 3 easy things you can do to keep the space around your home clear and deter termites:

- » Remove garden waste and clear any dead plants and trees before they rot
- » Do not store wooden items beneath the home or in basements
- » Minimise bushy gardens or plants growing against your home or fences



Signs of termite activity to look out for

Staying vigilant for signs of termite activity is important as the sooner you pick up on something unusual, the more successful treatment is.

A few things to keep an eye out for include:

- » Mud 'tubes' (see image below), termites build mud tubes from mud and droppings so they can travel from outside to inside and around your home
- » The power at your home repeatedly short circuiting
- » Noticeable floor and/or ceiling damage such as blistering, cracks and sags - you can test this by knocking on beams to see if they sound hollow
- » Cracked paint or plaster on walls

If you notice any of these signs of damage, please contact SEARMS so we can call in a specialist to investigate.





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