

## **JAMAICA'S AGGRESSIVE ABOVE-GROUND NESTING TERMITES**

Keeping your structure and furnishings free of termites is crucial. Termites gets into the frame of your home and can cause premature repairs or renovations to be made on your home; or worse yet cause parts of your home to collapse. You should even be concerned about termites not only inside your home, but also if they are infesting in a tree within 300 feet of your home and have us exterminate them immediately

You also need to fix leaking and worn-out faucets in kitchens and bathrooms to keep moisture collection pockets or spots away. Moist and damp places encourage termite development and is instrumental in attracting rainflies. You need to keep any roof runoff or gutters clean and remove all tree overhangs (after an exterior barrier is established). This will help in keeping your house moisture free. It is always better not to stack wood, box or cellulose products, but if you have, use lots of mothballs and stack them as far above the ground as possible, and away from walls, rain and moisture. If you observe a crack or opening inside or outside your house, fill it up with cement or putty. After our professional help, the other way to keep termites away is to take preventive action.

- Wood not removed
- Waterleaks
- Excessive "water pooling" evidence
- Excessive moisture
- Trees & shrubbery touching structure
- Stored wood/clutter
- Stored Boxes and paper
- Wood in contact with soil
- Untreated wood
- Limbs on house

### **What are preventive measures to get rid of termites?**

A few of the preventive actions are listed here:

1. Remove all adjacent plants and shrubbery that rests on homes.
2. Be alert for incoming rainflies, try to trace their source and report them to us, we will assist.
3. Have us inspect and treat all new wood and furniture.
4. To prevent your wood from damage we will treat them with specialized wood & timber treatments.
5. Sealing all the cracks in walls, wood, inner perimeter and outer foundation.
6. Cover all the outside vents with fine screen mesh.
7. Avoid accumulation or draining of water against your foundation. It is better to remove all the timber waste and any type of clutter, termites will nest and swarms from them.
8. Select a dry, well ventilated place to store wood and stacked on an elevated base, then inspect it regularly.
9. Watch out for dry or cracked limbs on trees, holes that collect water in trees and broken or rotting limbs.

### **General Methods Caribpest uses to get rid of Termites:**

Basically there are 6 professional methods used by Caribpest to get rid of termites, these are listed below:

1. Fumigation: With the help of sealed, potent insecticide fumes, termites are killed. But this method is effective only on few aboveground termite species like drywood termite, powderpost termites and AGN wall and wood "aboveterranean" termites.
2. Termite Baits: our baits is our way to kill nests, baits are placed around the house, gradually, it kills the entire termite colony by spreading pesticides inside the nests.
3. Liquid Termite Treatment: To kill or to repel termites from your house, safe liquid termiticide formulas

- are strategically sprayed and injected.
4. Borate Termite Treatment: Borate is directly applied to your wooden articles in the form of paintcoat.
  5. This treatment is effective when applied during the construction of your house or for roof wood already in place, or after or just before fumigation.
6. Foundation Pretreatments, prior to construction.
7. Management alterations and using FATAL ATTRACTION SOIL PEGS AND ROOF BLOCKS.

It is really difficult to deal with termite colonies as they travel as rainflies above treated soil all year, but proactive steps will be helpful in all cases.

**In 1988 our team followed a tutor who trains pco's in Florida USA, to solve a termite problem on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of an apartment building. termites were descending from the ceiling on the fifth floor. it was this particular occupant's third attempt to get rid of termites from his apartment. He was the only one with a problem. everyone below his floor, even the ground floor, were termite free, he could not drill/treat below his floor for it had occupants below. There was no soil to attribute their presence.. his ceiling and upperwall, where termites kep emerging, was drilled like a checkerboard yet the termites kept inexplicably re-appearing, destroying his decorative ceiling molding, shelves and books and emerging from wall sockets in his kitchen.**

**eventually we found that the termites were emerging from below a flower pot on the verandah of an apartment above his own apartment and had tunneled across the grey pebble-dash, wall and entered a foam rubber electrical duct hole in the wall that was dampened by dripping ac units mounted outside. a wall 30+ feet above ground, the reputable tutor was dumbfounded, it revolutionized his and our outlook on termite inspections and treatments in JAMAICA. JAMAICA became to him became a great source of experience and educated him about our aboveground nesting subterranean termites**

**chi chi warning indications :**

**the earliest signs are rainflies: then droppings of grains, or appearance of tubelike veins on surfaces later symptoms of course is destructive rot. then rainflies once again**

**remove and/or treat all untreated wood in moisture-collecting bathroom and kitchens. Keep moisture and untreated wood away from your house mainly bathrooms, kitchens, etc.) especially if the house has a history of termite activity, attack or rainfly appearances.**

Termites will head right for your structure if walls are damp (kitchens & bathrooms),

or wood in damp areas are untreated

or the soil near it is moist, so there are a few things you need to do to prevent this CREEPING DOMINO attack.

First of all, trim and prune plants that are near your house. Incline all waste pipes and your ground gutters, make sure they drain water away from your foundation. Check any Roof top tanks, faucets, machine or heater hoses, and trace air conditioners drippings. – Innerwall leaks are a common reason for termites rainflies being attracted to your house wall, bath tiles and kitchen cupboards. IMPORTANT! Jamaican Termites won't just burrow up ONLY from soil into a building's wooden framework – Rainflies start nests in moist dark blocks, then extend the nest trails downwards from under tubs and from in walls using saliva, construction residues and soft mortar to construct trails towards anything they wish to consume.

**RAINFLY INVADERS**

1) Never install untreated wood in homes or buildings. If you have remove them especially those in moist areas such as roofs, kitchens and bathrooms. Or those in moist areas of Jamaica and watersheds.

2) **Get rid of wood debris in or near your home.** People erroneously think termites came only from nests from the ground up to attack doorjambs, boxes etc., in contact with floors.

In Jamaica it is far more likely that paired rainflies may have fallen into, beside or under the items and only then, did they form NESTS beneath them.

To termite rainflies... boxes, barrels and wood is fast food for starting up nests - and these food sources in or near your house is only inches away from progressive infestation, to the house frame itself.

Stored carton boxes, books, old files, newspapers, magazines, clothing, and planks of wood or plyboard should all be removed from inside those rarely used, poorly lit storage areas inside or near your house.

3) **Check your house for cracks.** This is the easy way for termites (rainflies) to get into Furniture, concrete walls, wooden roofs, foundation or wood floors, wall trims and roof or ceiling moldings; if untreated these should be removed, treated on all sides, replaced, sealed or caulked up. If previously infested and un-removed, incoming WDO's or rainflies, (attracted by the pheromones and sugar left behind in galleries of un-removed wood) will access those entry holes take charge and at times even adopt the abandoned eggs/nymphs.

4) **Wood sheds, fences, planters and structures near your house that touch the ground must be treated and inspected annually.** Most houses won't be designed with this problem - but many people put decks, latticework, door frames, or stairs on their homes as well. You need about half a foot free space between the ground and any wood.

5) **Use only wood that is termite-resistant or made termite resistant by us.** Popular ones include wolmaniized, mahogany, and cedar - they aren't termite-proof, but they are a less attractive initial food source for them. We have identified sellers who have true high-grade treated lumber, call us for a list.

**CARIBPEST'S treatments makes structures termite resistant.**

**Localised or Spot treat termite activity with a termiticide.**

**Aerosol wall injection**

**Jet-Fog Roofs**

**Bait the termite colony with a baiting system.**

**Treated sand and sawdust exterior barriers.**

**the best approach is a combination of the two. This is currently the technique that most reputable pest companies use.**

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**LONG MOUNTAIN and other hill and mountain side structures?** Termites cannot tunnel through Caribpest treated sand, so we often use it as a way to stop them from entering your hillside or hilltop homes. Termites use their mouths to burrow, and they can only move particles of a certain size.

If you're going to do a sand barrier, it may be a good idea to get it done professionally. Our company will either build a trench of sand several inches thick around your foundation, crawl

spaces, and other key areas, or it will use a device called a sand pump that will pump sand underneath your house, making it harder to burrow in. This can be a good option for not only for porous hillside properties but people mainly concerned about the environmental effects of chemicals.

**Inside Wall Plumbing Penetrations & Plumbing Voids (Slab Foundations):**

Most termiticide labels have specific instructions on how to perform wall foaming.

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**Odourless Treatments** sodium borate treatment that is odorless, natural and will kill termites and can last the life of the wood. 1 treatment will last the life of the wood. No other treatments to that wood will be necessary.

RECLAIMED LAND : PORTMORE ETC.,

**Try not to interfere with any termite colonies you find on your property. Do termites kill trees? We won't give a yes or no. But lift up any sugar cane root and you will get our answer.**

Trees and their roots are actually a common cause of crossover or migratory infestation. A termite colony on your property or nearby - maybe in an old stump or a tree is a serious threat. Don't try to destroy it yourself. Steps have to be taken to protect your roof and home before touching the tree. The colony will be shifted literally overnight, either via roots or wings – converging into your home. If you find a colony on your property, have it approached professionally by us. "Winged Rainfly Reproductive termites," can turn themselves into mating kings and queens in your home. In Jamaica, There is no one queen per nest, the colony does not die if the REIGNING queen dies.

**Have your house inspected regularly - at least once a year.** Regular inspections will catch colonies before they are fully built - and before they've done much damage to your home.