

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Prepared For Termite Swarming Season?

(NAPSA)—Each year, termites damage millions of homes and other structures in the United States. Nationally, termites cause more than \$2 billion in treatment and repair costs annually.

In southern coastal regions, a significant amount of damage is caused by one group of termites—drywood termites. Drywood termites are just what their name implies—they like dry wood, live inside the wood and do not require contact with the soil.

These insects are tireless wood eaters—small in stature, but big in destructive potential.

Annually, drywood termites spread their destruction when male and female insects leave established colonies to look for a new home—usually a crack, hole or other surface defect in the structure. They enter the wood and begin feeding.

In Northern California, termites typically swarm in June and July, whereas in the southern part of the state, swarmers may take flight in September through November. They can usually be found on warm, sunny days after a rain.

In Florida, termite swarmers can be seen in spring, summer and fall from February through November.

In addition to swarmers, other common indications of a termite infestation include:

- Piles of six-sided pellets, typically found on window sills and floors, and in attic spaces;
- Discarded wings and dead termites near light sources;
- Severely blistered wood or



Drywood termites are found throughout the United States, typically in southern coastal regions.

woodwork with pinhead-sized kick out holes; and

- Hollow sounding wood.

When termites are discovered, pest management professionals can recommend several treatment options depending on the extent and location of the infestations. However, in most structures, 80 percent of wood is hidden, leaving many areas inaccessible for inspection.

A whole-structure fumigation with Vikane* gas fumigant is the only way to ensure 100-percent control of drywood termite infestations through the structure, including those hidden in inaccessible wood. The effectiveness of Vikane is confirmed by 40 years of university research. More than one million structures have been fumigated with Vikane over the years, including homes, museums, rare book libraries, university facilities and historical landmarks.

To learn more about drywood termite treatment options, visit the University of Florida's Web site www.ftld.ufl.edu/drywood.htm.

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Vikane is a federally Restricted Use Pesticide.