



# Our Insect Enemies



## To Prevent Termite Damage; Early Detection Is Key

(NAPSA)—Termites are among the most ancient of pests, surviving for more than 250 million years. Since termites aren't going anywhere, it is important for homeowners to know about these silent invaders and the potential damage they can cause homes.

Termites are social insects that live in colonies ranging in size from thousands to millions. Termites are also able to adapt to changing environments. An average lot (approximately one-half acre) surrounding a home can support three to four colonies.

According to Paul Hardy, technical director for Orkin, Inc., termites can be a problem for almost everyone. "Unless you live in Alaska, your home or building can be a target for termites."

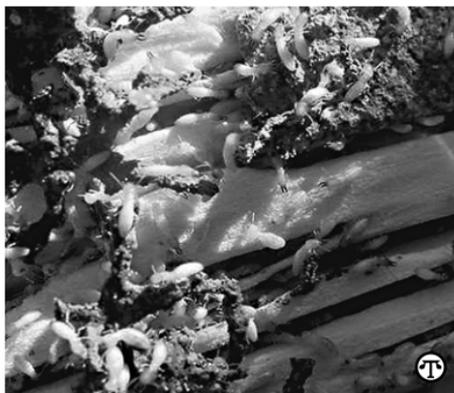
No other structural pest has caused more attention than termites. According to the National Pest Management Association, termites cause over \$5 billion dollars in damage each year in the United States. Because termites can enter your home through cracks as tiny as  $\frac{1}{32}$ ", any home, regardless of structure type, is vulnerable to termite attack.

According to Orkin, identifying a termite problem can be difficult, since termites eat wood from the inside out. That's why homeowners should schedule an annual inspection with a licensed professional.

"Preventing termites from entering your home is important. But if you do have a problem, it takes a professional pest control company to control termites and keep them from coming back," says Hardy.

Signs of termites include:

- a temporary swarm of winged insects,



**Schedule an annual inspection to prevent termite infestation.**

### Termite Hot Spots

- Tree stumps and roots provide termites with a source of food, water and moisture.
- When concrete is poured around utility pipes, it cools and contracts, leaving hidden spaces for termites to enter your home.
- When foundations are not sloped away from your home or mulch is used close to the home, moisture can collect and attract termites.
- Termites reach food sources above the ground by building mud tubes, which protect termites from exposure to light, air and enemies.

- discarded wings from "swarmers,"
- cracked or bubbling paint,
- wood that sounds hollow when tapped, or
- mud tubes on exterior walls.

Homeowners can reduce their chances of termite damage by eliminating moisture and removing wood sources close to the home. For more information, visit [www.orkin.com](http://www.orkin.com). Free inspections are also available by calling 1-800-800-ORKIN.