

Native Subterranean Termites

Native subterranean termites are the greatest economic threat to homes and buildings in the United States. The damage caused by termites each year exceeds all of the damage caused by all of the natural disasters in our country combined. Termites do not get the attention of the news media like a tornado does, since termites are eating houses silently. The damage they cause is NOT covered by homeowner insurance policies! Yet, most homeowners do not have a termite damage replacement policy.

Native subterranean colonies vary in size from a few hundred thousand to several hundred thousand termites. There are eight to twelve colonies of the native species, per acre, in South Louisiana. According to some estimates, one colony can consume ten pounds of wood a week! These termites forage for wood three to four inches underground. When they find wood, they eat it and thereby convert it to humus. Termites are beneficial in the natural environment, but not when they attack our homes. They are most often detected by the homeowner in the spring time when they make a colonizing flight from the nest. This is called a "swarm." The swarmers are black with smokey-clear wings. They resemble flying ants, except that they do not have the apparent pinched waist that ants have. Another way to detect them is to look for their mud shelter tubes that are usually 1/4 inch in diameter, or larger. These tubes can be seen on foundation slabs, piers, or inside a home.

All species of subterranean termites can be very hard to detect by the untrained person. This is why you should have your home inspected by a licensed professional.

There are many different techniques and chemicals used for treating subterranean termites. Some chemicals will last longer in the soil than others.

If you are looking for a pest control company that will be there for you now and tomorrow, then please contact us anytime at:

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Joe and his staff are eager to earn your business!