



PEST INFORMATION SHEETS



EXODUS
PEST CONTROL



COMMERICAL & DOMESTIC PEST CONTROL







1300 396 387



PEST information

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FACT sheet

Ants

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Ants

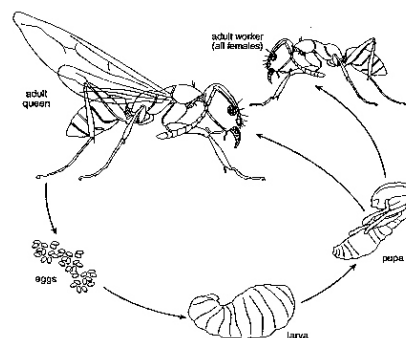
Ants are widespread throughout Australia, including Tasmania, in all terrestrial habitats. Bushland areas have numerous coexisting species. Ants live in large colonies or groups. Their home is a nest. There may be up to a million ants in a large nest. In each colony there are three types of ants: the queen, the female workers, and males. The male ants' job is to mate with queen ants so that they will be able to lay eggs. Male ants don't live very long.

There are approximately 3,000 species of ants that nest in a variety of locations in Australia.

The queen grows to be an adult, mates with a male, then spends the rest of her life laying eggs. In a colony there may be only one queen or there may be many queens, depending on the species of ant. Worker ants do all the work in the nest. They build it and clean it, gather food, look after the queen, the eggs, and the young ants. Worker ants also defend the nest.

Life cycle

Ants go through four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The larva hatches from the egg and is cared for by the worker ants. During the pupa stage the larva is in a sleep-like state, as it changes into an adult ant. All ants live in colonies which typically include a large force of workers and a single, or several queens, along with successive life-history stages, eggs, larvae and pupae; the composition may vary seasonally. The worker ants of most domestic pests forage in columns, and may co-operate in the return of larger items of booty. Adult ants imbibe liquid food, including sweet solutions, meat juices, and the blood of prey insects to maintain their day-to-day energy requirements.



Nests



Different kinds of ants build different types of nests. Some build simple mounds of dirt or sand. Others use small sticks mixed with dirt and sand to make stronger, waterproof mounds. Inside the nest there are many chambers (or rooms). The chambers are connected to each other by tunnels. Chambers are used for different things, for example as nurseries for eggs and young ants, for storing food, as resting places for the worker ants and a there's a special chamber just for the queen.

Ants communicate (talk to each other) by touching each other with their antennae. They also use chemicals called pheromones (say *ferra-moans*) to leave a trail of scent for other ants to follow.

Ants have lived on the Earth for more than 100 million years and can be found almost anywhere on the planet.

Ants are found around the home, schools, and commercial properties attracted by the food and security offered. On this page and the next are four species of ant we have to contend with on a regular basis:

Argentine ant

The introduced Argentine ant is such a pest that when it first appeared in Australia almost half a century ago, the government offered a reward to anyone who reported a nest. Today, Australia is still plagued with these tiny red ants, their latest assault being into the suburbs of Melbourne. They kill native plant seedlings and compete aggressively with native ants for food and nesting sites. They also cause havoc in households by nesting in potted plants, light sockets and wall cavities.



Black house ant

The Black House Ant, *Ochetellus* (formerly *Iridomyrmex*) *glaber*, occurs in Australia over much of the range of the White-footed House Ant and has similar behaviour. It commonly nests within the structure of buildings. *O. glaber* is adept at importing and tending aphids and other bugs on domestic pot plants. It is a little smaller and stockier than the White-footed House Ant, and more intensely black, with a sometimes subtle, but distinct, purplish blue-green iridescence. The White-footed and Black House Ants have a distinctive strong odour when crushed, but the smell is reportedly imperceptible to some noses.



"Your EXODUS Pest Control technician has a variety of products and a plan of attack to treat your specific ant situation. Listen to his professional advice and his plan to address your situation so that you have a thorough understanding of the treatment. "

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Coastal brown ant

Originally from Africa, the Coastal Brown Ant, *Pheidole megacephala*, is prominent in domestic situations in the Perth/Fremantle area; Darwin; and east coast towns, south at least to Sydney. It is considered the major ant pest in many areas. Distinctive large-headed major workers are present along with ordinary workers. The majors defend the colony, and perform special tasks, such as seed-cracking. The waist is 2-jointed, and a sting is present. This ant infests houses, stores and gardens, taking food ranging from sugar to cheese, meat and bread. Outside it tends sap-sucking bugs and interferes with gardening, cultivation and harvesting. Tropical crop trees like coffee can fall over because of soil loosening by Coastal Brown Ant nests.



White-footed house ant

The White-footed House Ant, *Technomyrmex albipes*, ranges from SE Asia to Eastern Australia and New Zealand. It is one of the three small, dolichoderine ants which are major pests in Australia. These species lack major workers; they have 1 segmented waist node and do not sting (their venom is smeared from the tip of the abdomen). All are relatively soft-bodied and easily squashed when crushed between fingers. White-footed House Ants are dull cloudy black in colour, with largely white legs. These ants can live well in gardens and domestic surrounds. They enter houses most frequently in dry periods seeking water in kitchens or bathrooms, and will eat sweet substances or meat. Indoors, nests may utilise any suitable space: wall and ceiling voids, insulation batts, even small, empty, storage containers.



Economic and health impacts of ants

Ants are mainly a nuisance pest rather than a health problem. Ants cause problems primarily when they forage in buildings for food or water and when they construct nests in buildings and gardens. When searching for food, they are attracted to a wide range of foodstuffs. They will also search indoors for water during dry periods. When desirable items are found many species will recruit fellow nest mates to help gather the food and return it to the nest. This can result in large numbers of ants appearing over a short period of time.

Ants can be a nuisance when attempts are made to establish plants through direct seeding. Workers will forage for the newly planted seeds, removing them to their nests and causing reduced germination.

Some ants build nests in walls and foundations, or indoors in potted plants, enclosed areas, and even in cavities in toilets and sinks. In almost all cases nests are limited to pre-existing cavities or spaces between objects or in rotten wood. Ants will seldom attack solid structures. Thus they generally will not cause structural damage to buildings but will take advantage of existing deterioration. A few species will occasionally attack electrical wiring and cause extensive damage.

Outdoors, nesting activity can result in excavated soil being deposited in gardens and on brickwork. In most cases this causes little property damage but some species can form large numbers of chambers close to the surface. These chambers can cause soil to become soft and uneven, causing serious problems when found in some types of pastures or crops.

Several species of ants pose serious health threats to people who are sensitive to their stings. In extreme cases hospitalisation may be required. Other species are known to carry diseases. Fortunately these cases are uncommon in Australia.

The conveyance of some diseases such as dysentery, small pox and salmonella has been recorded.

Ant Control

To keep ants out of a structure, sanitation is very important. If you have an ant infestation, all food products should be stored in containers that can be sealed. Don't leave food scraps out overnight.

Kitchens need to be kept clean with no food products under sinks or in ovens. This is especially important in commercial kitchens.

Any water leaks must be fixed to take away a water source for colonies. This is especially relevant with the dry conditions being experienced across Australia.

Your EXODUS Pest Control Technician can develop an effective control strategy utilising a number of tools at his disposal to suit your circumstance.

FACT sheet

Cockroaches

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Cockroaches

There are 428 species of cockroach in Australia and a number of introduced species have become pests. The two most significant pest cockroaches are the German cockroach and the American cockroach.

Cockroaches live and feed in unhygienic places such as sewers and drains, or feed on garbage that may be contaminated. These insects are cold-blooded and thrive in warm, humid conditions. This is why buildings in the northern parts of Australia are particularly prone to infestations. However cockroaches will make their home wherever they find food, moisture and shelter.



German cockroach

German cockroach

The German cockroach is the most common cockroach found in houses, apartments and commercial buildings in Australia. Their small size means that human occupants, many of whom do not recognise early nymphal stages as cockroaches, initially tolerate them. Their rapid reproduction rate enables a few individuals to become a pest problem over one season. From an original female German cockroach there could be potentially more than 100,000 cockroaches in a home by the end of one year! German cockroaches are nocturnal and forage for food and water at night when they are less likely to be seen. In the daytime, they hide in cracks and crevices in cupboards and kitchen appliances and so are easily overlooked. You can find them then around refrigerators, dishwashers, stoves, washers and dryers, and water heaters. They do not fly. The German cockroach is the most difficult pest cockroach species to control.

American cockroach

The American cockroach is the largest of the pest species. It is red-brown, with fully developed wings that cover the abdomen, and it will fly in warm conditions. The American Cockroach has a great potential for producing offspring. Because of the large size of both adults and nymphs, people are less tolerant of this species, and the cockroaches also find fewer places inside to hide in the daytime. When established in homes they are normally found in wall voids or behind cupboards, in underfloor areas or in roof spaces. Normally they enter living rooms, kitchens and bathrooms when they are foraging for food and water. They are most associated with the areas around homes or buildings. Common areas where they are found include gardens, around garbage, inside drains and in outhouses such as sheds or garages. American cockroaches can coexist with German Cockroaches with no negative effects on either cockroach population.



American cockroach



Brown-banded cockroaches

The brown-banded cockroach

A single brown-banded female cockroach has the potential to produce about 250 offspring. But, because of the longer time that it takes nymphs to grow into sexually mature adults, large populations are not produced as quickly as those of the German cockroach. In addition, because the egg cases are glued to objects in the environment soon after formation, they are susceptible to drying out, attack by fungi and other factors that contribute to produce a low hatch rate. This translates into a much lower potential for offspring production than for the German cockroach. They are often found dispersed through the house behind picture frames and in light switches and furniture. Because they require less water than German cockroaches, they often survive in drier locations that are unsuitable for German cockroaches. They frequently occur in locations at eye-level or above such as in cabinets, around closet shelves, behind pictures, in warm areas near motors of refrigerators, electric clocks, timers and television sets. Other favourite habitats are around the braces of kitchen chairs and tables, around objects on the wall and in shower stalls.

The oriental cockroach

The oriental cockroach is found in the cooler areas of Australia. They are dark brown or black and may be found under floors, in sewers and drains, and around garden rubbish. A single female oriental cockroach has a much lower potential for producing offspring than either the German or the brown-banded females. They are more sensitive to lack of water than other cockroaches and like cool, damp locations. Look for oriental cockroaches in dark, damp basements, crawl spaces, areas between soil and the foundation, underneath sidewalks, in sewer pipes, floor drains and any other cool, moist place. Outside, they sometimes congregate near or under garbage cans.



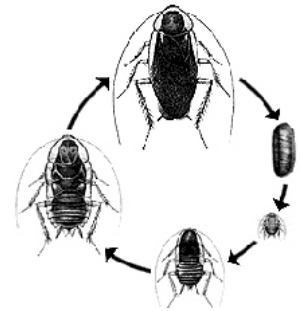
Oriental cockroach

"Your EXODUS Pest Control technician has a variety of products and a plan of attack to treat your specific cockroach situation. Listen to his professional advice and his plan to address your situation so that you have a thorough understanding of the treatment."

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Lifecycle

A population of cockroaches can build quickly if not kept in check. A female cockroach lays between 10 and 40 eggs at a time. On average, the female can lay around 30 batches of eggs in her lifetime. The hatched young look the same as adults, only smaller and without wings. Very small nymphs hatch from the egg capsule and then develop through a series of nymph stages to become adults. Depending on the conditions and type, a cockroach can live for up to 12 months.



Economic and health impacts of cockroaches

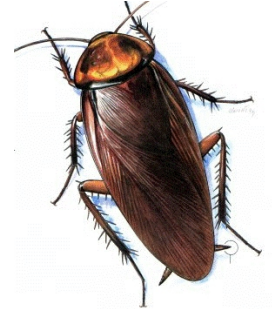
Cockroaches are a health hazard. They carry bacteria on their bodies from sewers, drains and garbage areas which brings them in contact with disease organisms including salmonella and other organisms associated with dysentery, typhoid, hepatitis and tuberculosis and then transmits it to you and your family by visiting your kitchen and bathroom areas.

Ingested bacteria can survive in the cockroach's digestive system for its entire life-span, and are passed in its droppings. It is thought that disease is then transmitted to humans when they eat cockroach droppings on contaminated food.

Cockroach allergies and asthma

People can become allergic to cockroaches and their faeces. Cockroach allergens are present mostly in settled dust, rather than air, as the particles are large and do not remain airborne unless disturbed. There seems to be a particular association between cockroach allergens and asthma but they can also cause **rhinitis** and **dermatitis**. The allergens are potent sensitisers of children and exposure to cockroach allergens early in life has been found to be a predictor for the development of asthma.

American cockroach



Preventative measures to ensure permanent control

Once you have employed a professional pest control company such as EXODUS PEST CONTROL to control Cockroaches in your environment, there are certain things that you can do in order to get a faster, more permanent result. We have used our professional equipment and treatments to get to the places that you would not normally even think of, let alone carry out. Once we have carried out our treatment, there are three measures that you can take to maximise the effectiveness:

1. REMOVE OR ELIMINATE FOOD SOURCES FOR COCKROACHES.

This involves keeping the floor and other areas free of food scraps and grease. Washing up should not be left overnight and food should never be consumed in any place other than the meal area. Cardboard and paper are notorious for harbouring Cockroaches. Do not store these for any period longer than necessary.

2. FILL OR BLOCK OFF ANY CRACKS AND CREVICES THAT PROVIDE HIDING AREAS FOR COCKROACHES.

This may be done with a caulking agent such as "No More Gaps". Dripping taps should have washers replaced as this may provide water that they can drink.

3. LISTEN TO YOUR PROFESSIONAL PEST TECHNICIAN'S PLAN OF CONTROL.

Your EXODUS Pest Control technician has a variety of products and a plan of attack to treat your specific cockroach situation. Listen to his professional advice and his plan to address your situation so that you have a thorough understanding of the treatment.

Remember that cockroach control relies upon a conscientious effort from both the pest control technician and the client. Success definitely doesn't occur overnight but following these few instructions will get you very good results within one month of EXODUS Pest Control's treatment and guarantees that you won't be living with these unwanted guests in the future!



Cockroach close-up

"From an original female German cockroach there could be potentially more than 100,000 cockroaches in a home by the end of one year!"



German cockroach

FACT sheet

Fleas

"...most females will lay at least 100 eggs within a life cycle of several months..."

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Fleas

Fleas are highly specialized bloodsucking parasite usually light brown to mahogany in colour and roughly oval shaped measuring 2-8 mm in length. The life cycle of a flea is similar to a moth ñ egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (cocoon) and adult. They can emerge from the pupal case in 1-2 weeks but can remain dormant in their cocoons for several months depending on the availability of food and conditions. A newly hatched adult flea is unfed, small, black and aggressive- commonly referred to as a ground or sand flea. After a feed they lighten in colour and become larger, the female flea is ready to mate and lay eggs at this stage (about 24hours after hatching). Ten fleas can potentially reproduce to 250,000 in only 30 days!

Prolonged periods of warm humid weather in the summer months provide ideal conditions for fleas to flourish. So it is important to act fast in partnership with your professional pest technician to control the environment and prevent serious infestations in your home and on your pets.



Cat flea



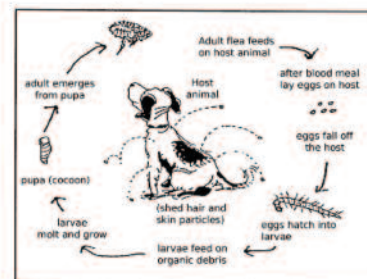
Cat flea

Treatments

A successful treatment for fleas is a combined effort between the home owner and the pest technician. If all steps are followed a successful outcome will be achieved within a few weeks. The solution involves treatment of the pet and the pet's environment along with some patience. The expectation should not be instant control. The life cycle of the flea and the inability of the chemical to penetrate the eggs mean you may still see fleas for up to a few weeks. When the adult stage comes into contact with the chemical it will die within a few hours. It is important to have movement in all areas to encourage the hatching during this service period.



Human flea



Steps - Before we arrive

- * Treat your pet(s) with a registered product. You may seek advice from your Veterinarian and remember soaps or shampoos may reduce the residual action of the treatment.
- * Mow your lawn fairly short to allow the chemical easy access to the soil
- * Vacuum your carpeted and floorboard areas and dispose of contents in a sealed bag into the bin

Day of treatment

- * Remove pet(s) from the premise for the day and follow directions of technician while he is there
- * We will blanket spray any carpeted or floorboard areas inside and spray outside areas paying particular attention to pets favorite spots.

After treatment

- * Leave your pet in infested areas to encourage hatching
- * Make sure no areas are closed off to activity, again movement encourages hatching. You may run over areas with a broom to speed up process
- * Continue to treat pets with registered products as per label instructions

We can issue warranties if all above steps are followed and continual treatment of your pets will help prevent re-infestation.

FACT sheet

Rodents

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Rodents

Commensal rodents constitute a majority of the rodent problems in both commercial and residential properties. Commensal rodents consist of the Norway Rat, the Roof Rat, and the notorious House Mouse. The word "commensal" means these rodents live off man and return nothing of worth. The only possible category where they could be considered beneficial would be as garbage removal, and that is stretching it even for devoted animal activists.

These rodents are not native to Australia, they came from Europe with early explorers and settlers. Once they discovered the new environment they, like the early settlers, multiplied across the entire continent.

RODENT FACTS:

- All species of commensal rodents carry and spread various diseases.
- Rodents are often infested with fleas which they often share with those with whom they live.
- Rodents consume and contaminate significant numbers of the world's food supply every year.
- Rodents cause extensive damage to properties by gnawing on wood and wiring, often causing fires.
- Rodents cause some people to jump on chairs and scream, often falling and breaking bones.



Mice

There are species of native mice that occasionally invade houses, but the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) are the prominent species that invade houses and businesses. The House Mouse is found throughout Australia. They are omnivores, feeding on cereal grains, seeds, fruits, vegetables, and meats. Seed is the preferred food. They eat at multiple sites eating small amounts at each site. (20-30 sites per day). Mice are excellent climbers and are inquisitive. They explore their home turf daily and inspect any new object. Mice are prolific breeders and under ideal conditions will breed year round. The female will have an average of eight litters per season with an average of six pups per litter. At five weeks old, the pups are capable of mating. It is not unusual for a female to be lactating her young and pregnant with a new litter.

Rats

The two commensal rats are the Roof Rat and Norway Rats. The Roof Rat is best suited for tropical and semi-tropical zones. The Norway Rat is found throughout Australia. They eat meats, fish, flour, seeds, grains, fruits, vegetables, and anything a human will eat. They eat 30-60grams of food per day, and drink about 30mL of water per day. They must have water daily to survive. The Norway Rat is usually grayish-brown, but their colour varies. Some are pure gray some pure black, or any combination of the above. They explore their territory of 1-90 metres daily. They have neophobia, or new object fear, which makes them cautious, and any new object in their territory will take them several days before they will accept it. They, like mice, are colour blind, and see poorly. Their sense of smell and touch however are acute. Rats often live under houses, any dark area, or burrow under ground, often under front porches. They are nocturnal feeders.



Young Norway rats are capable of mating at three months. Females have an average of 3-7 litters per year with 6-12 pups per litter. After giving birth, the female goes back into heat in twenty-four hours. Adults live approximately one year.

Rodent Control

To keep rodents out of a structure, exclusion is always the first and most important step. Mice can enter a structure through any hole 7mm wide. Search your property and repair any holes.

Sanitation is also very important. If you have rodents, all food products should be stored in containers that can be sealed. Often dog food or bird seed is stored in bags which rodents can chew through. Cover garbage bins with tight fitting lids.

Kitchens need to be kept clean with no food products under sinks or in ovens. This is especially important in commercial kitchens.

Any water leaks must be fixed to take away a water source. Outside, especially around warehouses, should be weed free and kept clean around the perimeter of the structure.

Once a structure is rodent proofed as much as possible the existing rodents must be eliminated and precautions taken to avoid future infestation. Your EXODUS Pest Control Technician can develop an effective control strategy utilising a number of tools at his disposal to suit your circumstance.

FACT sheet

Spiders

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Spiders

Spiders can be divided into two main groups:

- crawling or hunting spiders
- webbing spiders



White Tail Spider

Crawling or hunting spiders

This group of spiders includes funnel web, huntsman, trapdoor, mouse and white tailed spiders which are not found on webs, but commonly make their home under leaf litter or bark, in hollows or purpose built burrows, and in general garden areas. Unlike the webbing spiders they hunt down their prey down or lie in wait to ambush their prey.

Control of crawling/hunting spiders is often limited to removal or elimination of each individual spider. Unless the species is considered dangerous, the best method of dealing with these spiders is to move them back into their habitat.



Huntsman Spider



Funnel Web Spider

Webbing spiders

Webbing spiders depend upon silk for their movements. When young spiderlings disperse from the parent web, they produce a strand of silk which is carried by the wind. The spiderling sits or hangs on to the silk and then builds its web wherever it lands. This process is known as ballooning. Mature spiders, when moving in search of food, produce a strand of silk which is carried by the wind until it comes into contact with a building or other stationary object. The spider then travels across this strand of silk and proceeds to build a new web. This is known as bridging. Under some conditions, spiders are considered beneficial because they feed on insects. However the unsightly webs used to catch the insects usually outweigh the beneficial aspect.

Spiders are found around the home, schools, and commercial properties preying on the other insects attracted by the food and security offered. Here are two we have to contend with on a regular basis:



Redback Spider

Redback spider

The female of the Redback spider is the one that can kill. The female Redback is approximately 10-15mm long, and is all black, except for the large red stripe on the abdomen. They are common in urban habitats such as garden sheds, under steps or logs, and around swimming pools or piles of rubbish. They build webs in dry, sheltered sites, often with the upper part of the web hidden from sunlight.

Black House spider

The other is the black house spider which leaves unsightly webs around windows and doors. Black house or window spiders are shy and quick to hide in retreat at the back of their webs if disturbed. Webs are often made in the corners of windows, and may have a funnel-shaped retreat in which the spider shelters.



Black House Spider

Economic and health impacts of spiders

Almost all spiders possess venom and all species of hunting spiders are potentially dangerous.

Many ground dwelling spiders such as the funnel web and mouse spiders are aggressive, and will adopt an attacking posture when threatened, rearing up on their hind legs. They are thickset, with large fangs capable of inflicting a painful and potentially serious bite. The aggressive female mouse spider is potentially dangerous to humans and animals, but bites are uncommon.

Redback bites are the greatest single cause of serious envenomation in the country and a bite from the female can kill.

Due to the variety and individual habits of spiders, the proper identification of species present is the first step in controlling this pest. Your EXODUS Pest Control Technician has the years of experience, professional products and action plan to do the job. After inspecting your dwelling your technician will explain our proven treatment plan to control spiders. EXODUS recommends not to disturb or wipe down webbing prior to our inspection or treatment. Webbing assists with the identification and treatment of this common pest.

FACT sheet

Termites

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Termites in Australia

They are commonly known as "White Ants". However, termites are not even closely related to ants. Ants have eyes, a constricted waist and dark bodies, whereas most worker and soldier termites are blind, have no constriction and are creamy in colour.

There are more than 300 species found in Australia but only about 30 could be considered to be pests of timber in service. Of these, the subterranean termites are the most significant, with about 12 species being serious pests.

The termite diet is centred around cellulose-based materials. These can include the timber used in constructing buildings, but could also include furniture, paper materials and fabrics. These termites can also damage non-cellulose materials such as polystyrene and plasterboard or the plastic coatings on electrical wiring.

Life history and habits

Termites are social insects and live in colonies containing a number of different castes. Each caste has a different form and function from the others; each is vital to the viability of the colony. In general terms the life history of all the economically important subterranean species is similar.

Alates

On a warm, humid evening large numbers of winged male and female termites, the "alates" or "primary reproductives" are released by the colony. A small number survive the flight, drop their two parts of distinctive, equal sized wings, pair off, mate, and if they can find a suitable location, start a new colony.



Termite alates



Termite Queen

Queen

As the other castes take over the running of the colony the young queen of most species becomes "physogastric" - her abdomen distends to many times its original size and she becomes an egg laying machine, laying up to 1,000 eggs a day. She is confined to her royal chamber, tended and fed by the workers and regularly fertilised by the male reproductive.

Nursery

The eggs are removed from the royal chamber and transferred to a nursery by the workers. Here the brood (the eggs and nymphs) develops into the other castes that the colony requires for development and survival: workers, soldiers and primary or secondary reproductives.



Termite eggs and nymphs



Termite soldiers and workers

Soldiers and workers

Soldiers and workers are blind and sterile termites.

The workers carry out the work for the colony and are responsible for gathering the food the colony needs. In most species the heads of the soldiers are uniquely armoured and equipped to allow them to defend the colony against attack, notably from ants.

Termite nest

Termites build a nest that contains the queen and king, the nursery and a large proportion of the soldiers and workers. Some species build a hard-shelled mound above or partly below the ground. Others build their nests in the trunk of a tree or below ground in the root crown. A nest can contain several million termites.



Termite nest inside tree

Termite leads

Termites are prone to dessication. All significant species that attack buildings construct a system of sealed leads that connect the nest to the food sources. Termites can move safely from the nest to the food and back, in an environment that will protect them against exposure to atmospheric conditions, predators and even pesticides.

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Coptotermes

Coptotermes acinaciformis is found throughout mainland Australia and causes more damage to property than any other species. It is aggressive in its search for food and will attack many items other than wood in its search for cellulose materials. It will damage wall lining boards, electrical wiring, and even personal possessions. Colonies often nest in trees or stumps but can form nests without ground contact.



Nasutitermes

There are several species of *Nasutitermes* which cause significant damage to timber in service. Soldier termites of these species are distinguished by their pointed heads. *Nasutitermes exitiosus* usually builds a low mound and is more common across Southern Australia. *Nasutitermes walkeri* builds part of its colony as a nest on the branch of a tree, the rest is constructed in the ground beneath it. This genus will mainly attack hardwood such as that found in fences and timber decking.



Mastotermes

Mastotermes darwiniensis, the Giant Northern Termite, is the most primitive of the commercially significant species. It shows an ability for sub-colonies to split off from the main colony and produce queens, without a mating flight. Eventually a network of interconnecting sub-colonies is established, which makes control difficult. These large termites can devastate buildings, bridges, poles, trees, and crops such as sugarcane. *Mastotermes* is found mainly north of the Tropic of Capricorn.



Schedorhinotermes

These termites cause damage approaching the severity caused by *Coptotermes*. They build fragile nests in places such as old tree stumps, in timber buried in the ground, in filled patios, and under fireplaces. The damage they cause is distinctive. Although it can be severe, it is often patchy with huge gouges taken out of sound timber, particularly around nails in floor boards or other timbers. *Schedorhinotermes* colonies contain major and minor soldiers.



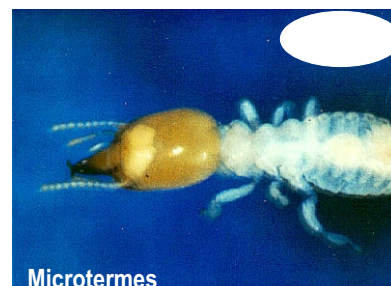
Heterotermes

Heterotermes are a significant structural pest throughout Queensland, northern WA, and the NT. In southern Australia they are only a minor nuisance. They are generally considered to do little damage to timber in service, restricting their attention to weathered timber fences, decking, and posts. Occasionally they can cause superficial damage to sound timber.



Microcerotermes

The genera *Microcerotermes* are found along the Coastal Queensland and New South Wales regions. They commonly attach their nest to a tree, and maintain a soil connection via galleries running down the surface of the trunk. However they also establish colonies under ground, in small mounds or on posts or poles. Their main point of entry to dwellings is decayed timbers in contact with the ground such as found with poles, posts, and fences.



Termite tips

Do not store timber or wood-based materials under or against a house or structure.

Do not build up soil, mulch or garden beds against the dwellings.

Keep all sub-floor areas clean, dry and well ventilated where possible.

Fix up leaking plumbing (eg. down-pipes, gutters and taps) and ensure that there is good drainage around the dwelling.

Have your EXODUS Pest Control technician conduct a thorough inspection of your home and surrounds at least every 12 months, and more frequently if you live in a high risk location.

