

**Be careful of wood in contact with the ground:**

- **Remove any wood or cellulose material stored on the ground beneath or around a building** including cardboard boxes and old newspapers.
- **Don't store any firewood in ground contact** This attracts termites. Stack firewood and lumber at least 8 inches (200mm) above ground on a metal rack or a concrete pad in the sun away from the house
- **Wood** in ground contact should be either **termite resistant or treated with a preservative**. Elevate a shed or dog house on a concrete pad. **High and dry is always best.**
- **Eliminate hidden entry points.** Wood siding and rigid foam insulation in contact with the soil can hide termite shelter tubes and be a nightmare, providing termites with easy hidden and secure tunnel space. Ensure **12" min. (300mm)** better yet - **18" (450mm) clearance**, between any wood and soil **in crawl spaces** for inspection purposes.
- **Remove pressure-treated edging boards, retaining walls, or railway ties** and dispose. Treat fence posts with borate rods.
- Live trees are usually not infested, **but dead trees or a heavily infested live tree should be cut down**, the stump excavated or chipped, and the chippings disposed. **Be careful to avoid transporting infested wood/lumber to other locations.** Contact us (519) 846-0265.

- **Wood chip mulches act like bait and should not be used.** Use alternate mulches: stone / coffee bean husk/ peat moss / 100% bark **Remove any wood or cellulose material stored on the ground beneath or around a building** including cardboard boxes and old newspapers.



**Typical Termite Damaged Baseboard**

Pictures courtesy of howstuffworks

***Are you providing a haven for the enemy?***

Stumps, dead trees, wood retaining walls, landscape ties and wood chip mulch provide sheltered conditions which are **ideal for termite** feeding and nesting. These types of yard wood are the greatest liabilities to residents and should be removed.

Subterranean **termites tend to favour softwoods** (pine or spruce) and faster growing hardwoods (aspen). However they will feed on virtually every type of wood. **Termites only feed on dead wood** and will not attack the sapwood of live trees. Building materials such as rigid polystyrene insulation boards, plaster, soft plastics, and underground cables, may also be penetrated by foraging termites even though they do not feed on these materials.

Termites can enter a structure by **tunneling** through wood, by building **shelter tubes**, or

by entering **cracks** as small as 1/32 inch (.003mm) in foundation walls.

***Will termites living nearby attack my house?***

They might. Subterranean termites, **will travel at least 500 ft (150m) from their nests** through the soil to exploit food sources. Termites **flying from colonies** can sometimes spread **3000 feet (900m)**. If your **house is well maintained** and has a **termite management plan**, the risk can be reduced to something quite acceptable but never totally removed. To reduce the risk of infestation, eliminate all forms of dead wood from your yard such as firewood, wood chip mulch, and tree stumps. Also ensure that there are no wood elements bridging from the soil to any structure, such as a shed, deck or house. If structural infestation does occur, have an inspection and treatment performed by a pest control company licensed to undertake termite control treatments.

**Information, maps and other resources**

Need more info..... visit the township's website at [centrewellington.ca](http://centrewellington.ca) > **Quick Links "termites"**

If you find termites call **Centre Wellington Building Services**  
Bob Foster  
Chief Building Official  
[bfoster@centrewellington.ca](mailto:bfoster@centrewellington.ca)  
519-846-0265 ext. 289  
Book a termite inspection 519-846-0265



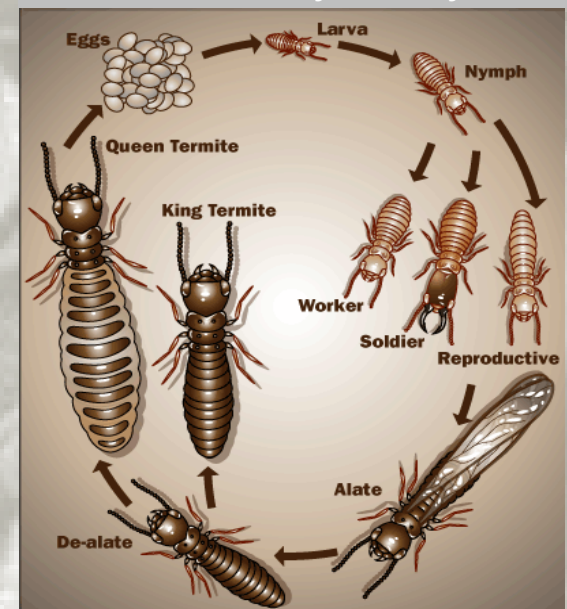
**Centre Wellington**

# Termite Awareness Program

## History

**Subterranean termites** are non-native invasive insects that can cause serious structural damage to homes and can be difficult and expensive to control. These insects have been accidentally introduced from the United States to over 30 Ontario municipalities. The termite infestation in Centre Wellington was first detected in Elora in the mid 1970s. Today, there are several known **Termite Management Areas** encompassing a total of 813 properties within Elora and 389 in Fergus.

### Termite Family Anatomy



Pictures courtesy of howstuffworks

See over .....

## What can you do to prevent termites?

### Inspecting for termites

Termites hide. They are little, white and soft-bodied. They avoid light and rarely come out into the open. Termite attack can escape anyone's notice for a very long time, which can be potentially damaging structurally not to mention expensive.

During the months of April through November, you can conduct inspections both around the yard and inside your house.

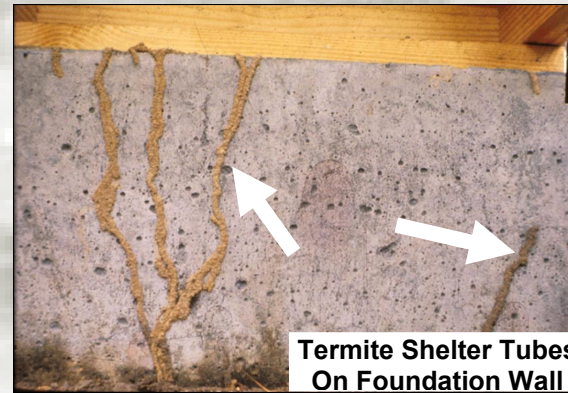
- Lift any moveable wood in contact with soil such as firewood, lumber, or barrels and examine the wood/soil interface for termites or their tunnels.
- Examine stumps by prying off the bark or chopping into them.
- Carefully examine crevices in the bark of large trees for shelter tubes.
- Also examine compost bins, garages, sheds, crawl spaces, under porches and decks and exposed foundation walls.

### So, how are termites in houses detected?

Often termites are detected . . . .

- when the vacuum cleaner leaves a **dent in the baseboard**
- when someone makes a dent in the floor
- when the **door falls off**
- when you notice **strange bits of mud** on the plaster and wood work

- in the spring when termites “swarm” or fly (in huge numbers) *inside your house* or when you notice all **those strange wings** you keep vacuuming away
- when the wood in the **window frames looks mottled** through the varnish
- when you see telltale **shelter tubes**



Pictures courtesy of howstuffworks

- when contractors or other trades are . . . .
  - ✓ repairing a springy floor
  - ✓ fixing leaky plumbing
  - ✓ working in the garden
  - ✓ putting in new cupboards

### Inside your house

- Check the house starting in the basement looking for **shelter tubes** using a flashlight and flat-edge screwdriver.
- If **shelter tubes** are found they should be carefully examined along their length. If the ends of shelter tubes are still wet this indicates they were recently built, and are probably still active. If the shelter tubes show no cracks or damage this also indicates that they may still be active.

- If you have **found termites** the Township's Termite Control Bylaw # 2000-130 requires owners to:
  - **contact a licensed professional pest control company** to undertake a preventative termite control program.
  - break all wood / soil contact.
  - repair or **replace all severely damaged wood**.
  - **Properly dispose of all infested wood**.

### Are there any preventative maintenance measures?

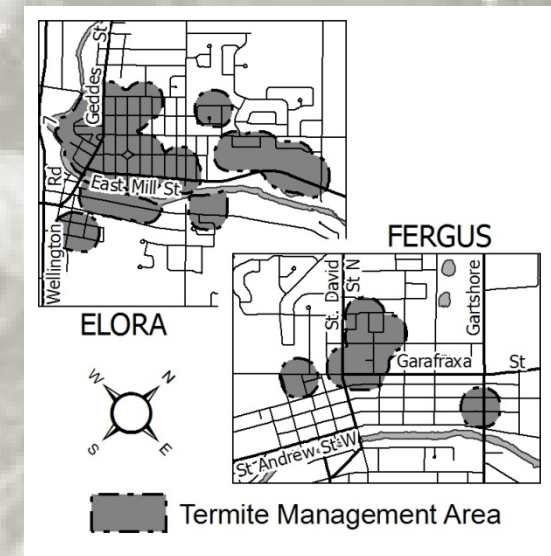
Since termites are most likely to try to get in via the soil there are some **simple things you can do**.

### Control moisture:

- **Termites need moisture.** Keep your structure dry and well ventilated.
- **Ventilate** all areas and ensure the vents are kept free and clear. Make sure wet areas inside (kitchen / bathroom / laundry/ crawl spaces) are well vented. Wood can get wet, but must not stay wet.
- Fix all **plumbing leaks**, particularly showers and baths. These often have leaks supplying constant moisture that make the wood just right to be eaten or for nesting.
- Check all **gutters and down spouts**. Make sure that the water ends up well away from the house.

Ideally down spouts should connect to storm water drains. If you don't have these, at least redirect the water well away from the house. Down spouts which regularly splash near the structure may be supplying an irresistible source of moisture.

- Avoid having **gardens directly against walls**. If you must do this, provide space for air movement between the vegetation and the wall and an inspection zone of at least 8” (200mm). **Termites have even been known to enter a building through vines & branches on exterior walls.**
- Make sure that any paving is angled to **drain surface water** away from the structure.



See over .....

