

TERMITE MANAGEMENT

Australia is a big and varied country, from cooler temperate climates to wet tropical ones. Such variation is important to remember when considering termite control methods. Should one particular method work well for one house, it may not prove appropriate for a second.

Unfortunately, new houses are just as susceptible to termite attack as old ones. And if it's a house you've built, it's your responsibility to put in measures to allow the homeowner to manage the potential attack and help prevent the attack of termites.

As a result of improved technology and increased knowledge, termite protection systems are becoming more effective, more environmentally friendly and as a result less toxic to humans, pets and local wildlife. More and more termite management systems have removed dangerous chemicals replaced them with improved formulations that are more environmentally friendly.

Important things to consider before construction are, the:

- Location of the building
- Climatic conditions
- Local council requirements
- Home's design and type of construction
- Clients' preferences
- AS 3660.1 as 'deemed to satisfy' performance requirements for termite risk management

Options for termite prevention and management:

Physical barriers – They are constructed from durable termite resistant materials including; Galvanised Iron, Zincanneal Steel, Sheet Cooper, Stainless Steel, Stainless Steel Mesh, Aluminium Alloy, Graded Crushed Rock. Treated lightweight materials, such as timber can be used as a physical termite barrier where appropriate. Physical termite barriers are best suited for new buildings by deterring termite entry and preventing the spread of termite activity. Many physical barriers are proprietary products and require specialist installation. It is important to consider physical termite barriers at the time of construction as they can be very difficult to install after construction.

Chemical barriers – They are suitable for new and existing buildings but care must be taken when choosing an environmentally friendly chemical barrier. There are a number of environmentally safe chemical barriers available. Chemicals must be enclosed or impregnated and must not affect the air-quality of the home. If a chemical barrier treatment method is selected, please ensure that it is non-hazardous and does not pose a threat to persons, animals or vegetation.

Baiting systems – These concentrate termites into a bait station and then feed the termite a bait – a palatable food containing an active ingredient. The termites collect the bait, return it the colony, and so spread the active ingredient throughout the colony. If enough active ingredient is ingested, then it is possible to eliminate the colony. Baiting systems can be installed at the time of construction or at the time of the inspection of a house, acting as a continuous monitoring system. Bait systems require a more intensive inspection regime and may not be as effective as other systems, however they are environmentally friendly.

Please ensure that the termite management system installed is easily accessible for regular inspection, monitoring and maintenance and that homeowners are advised to monitor for termite activity around the home.