



D-TEC PEST SOLUTIONS PTY LTD

TERMITE MANAGEMENT

PRE-LANDSCAPING GUIDELINES

Termites are abundant within South-East Queensland and are a constant threat to the homeowner. With some simple environmental considerations and regular Timber Pest Inspections the risk of an infestation can be reduced.

By following these simple guidelines, you can reduce the overall degree of risk to your property of having a Termite problem. Before you start the painstaking job of choosing and constructing a beautiful garden we would like to offer friendly advice. Our very experienced Termite specialists will issue you, the homeowner, with a comprehensive report and a list of guidelines for landscaping giving you a hands on approach to Termite Management.

Termite control is a process not an event. Unfortunately the problems with most households may have been avoided if the environmental conditions were taken into account.

We will continue to offer our clients the most personal and informative service, as well as keeping our recommendations and treatments to an Industry Best Standard. D-Tec Pest Solutions Termite Management is committed to delivering a professional and practical information package that will help protect your new home.

“Where new building or landscaping work to existing buildings is to be contemplated, advice should be sought from a competent person experienced in termite control to ensure that any barriers are not bridged or breached, and to ensure that appropriate termite management procedures are implemented.”

Section 2.5.2 AUST.. STAN 3660.2 2002

LANDSCAPING CHECKLIST

1. LOOSE TIMBERS

Any timber within ground contact has the potential to become food for termites. Especially untreated timber, this means offcuts of construction material, branches from cleared trees, firewood stacked on the ground .or logs that have been mulched for gardens.



2. RETAINING WALLS AND FENCES

When ever possible, use non-susceptible materials such as formed concrete materials for retaining walls and metal support posts for timber fencing, remember any timber in ground contact is a potential food source and possible nest sites for Termites.

“Structures including retaining walls should be constructed using termite resistant components thus minimising the potential for termites to establish nests.”



3. TREES AND STUMPS

Unfortunately these are the prime sites for subterranean termite nests. This does not mean you should run out and cut every tree down; there are trees that are naturally resistant to termites. But you should be aware that large stumps and their root systems pose the greatest threat and should be removed when ever possible. Termites feed on the dead timber not the living part of the tree, so in the event that a tree dies or a stump remains after clearing, the termites do what nature designed them to do, they are the forests recyclers. They will use the stump as a food source, or a nest sight.



4. LANDSCAPING TIMBERS

They may look attractive in gardens but they are attractive to termites as well. Even old driftwood can still feed a hungry termite.



5. GARDENS

When deciding on a garden the most important thing, aside from the plants, is the position and the construction of these garden areas. Termites can use moist areas to their advantage, so a garden (which is watered most days of the week) abutting the external walls of a house or a garden flanked by large timber sleepers is asking for trouble. The preferred option is to have the gardens away from the house in the yard and preferably concrete should be used for garden edging.



6. SLAB EDGE EXPOSURE

A very important factor to remember is that termites usually, will enter homes underground where the Brickwork meets the Slab or through a Weep hole that has been covered, so it is good practice to leave the slab edge and weep holes exposed for inspection and not cover them with soil for gardens.

“the purpose of slab edge exposure is to provide an inspection zone for detection of termite ingress”



7. MULCHES AND BARK

Termites will forage on any product that has cellulose content, this means products from trees or products made from trees. You can retain moisture just as effectively in your gardens by using non-conductive products such as pebbles or river rock

8. WATERING SYSTEMS AND MOISTURE

Experts agree that all other conditions conducive to Termite activity put aside, it is moisture that is the most contributing factor when a house has been attacked by Termites. You must be aware that even little drips of water are enough to sustain the termites. Moist areas are most commonly attributed to hot water system overflows, faulty plumbing, watering systems, guttering, moist subfloor areas, or greenhouse areas where moss has appeared. These moist areas must be monitored and investigated further.

“The building owner should ensure that the ground levels around the building are maintained in such a way to minimize water entering under the building. Where necessary, sub-surface drains should be installed and maintained to assist with drainage around the building”



A FINAL COMMENT

Of all Insects, Termites have the most highly organized infrastructure; they work 24hrs a day 7 days a week in order to find food and moisture for their colony.

By reducing the amount of Termite susceptible materials and moisture around your house and yard you will minimize the risk of Termite attack to your property. By incorporating these ideas into your plans for your garden you will help make your house and yard less attractive to termites.

In addition, it is highly recommended that you have regular Professional Timber Pest Inspections carried out to your house and garden areas. Termites are very secretive in nature and it takes a trained eye to spot damage or a potential problem.

We hope this information will be of some assistance in preparing your beautiful gardens and please don't hesitate to contact our office on (07) 3219 0455 for further advice.