

- For Contracts issued before October 1, 2003, the terms “full” or “unlimited” when used with a warranty or guarantee mean that the pest control company promises to restore property damaged by wood destroying organisms covered by the contract.

- A “limited” contract means that the pest control company promises only to provide additional treatment if an infestation occurs during a contract period.
- For contracts issued after October 1, 2003, the contract must state, on the first page in bold letters whether it is for repair and retreatment or for retreatment only, or that no guarantee or warranty is offered.

Furthermore, if there are any limitations, exclusions, or conditions on the promise to retreat or repair, then this must be stated in bold on the first page of the contract, and the headings of the section of the contract containing these conditions must be in bold print.

The duration of post-construction contracts and warranties can vary from one year to five years, depending on the policy of the pest control company. Normally, the annual renewal fee will remain the same during the term of the contract.

**Remember, if you do not renew your contract, it automatically becomes null and void, and you have lost your protection. Read any contract carefully before signing.**

For information about wood-destroying organisms, and termite treatment, contracts and warranties, contact one of the following offices of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control. Information is also available at the Department’s web site

[www.FloridaTermiteHelp.org](http://www.FloridaTermiteHelp.org)



Termite shelter tubes on wall stud.

Visit our web site:  
[www.FloridaTermiteHelp.org](http://www.FloridaTermiteHelp.org)

Regional Office	Telephone	Counties Served
Fort Lauderdale	(954) 467-4631	Dade, Monroe, Brevard
Boynton Beach	(561) 734-2801	Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee
Fort Myers	(289) 278-7200	Lee, Collier, Hendry, Charlotte, Glades, Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Sarasota, Desoto
Orlando	(407) 317-7320	Orange, Seminole, Brevard, Osceola, Indian River
Tampa	(813) 873-4786	Hillsborough, Polk, Pasco, Pinellas
Alachua	(386) 418-5500	Volusia, Lake, Marion, Citrus, Hernando, Sumter, Levy, Dixie, Lafayette, Taylor, Suwannee, Madison, Hamilton
Jacksonville	(904) 727-6595	Duval, Nassau, Baker, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Gilchrist, Alachua, Putnam, St. Johns, Flagler, Clay
Cottdonale	(850) 482-9508	Jefferson, Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Gulf, Calhoun, Jackson, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Escambia



Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner

Visit our web site at:

[www.FloridaTermiteHelp.org](http://www.FloridaTermiteHelp.org) or  
Call 1-800-HELP FLA

# Termite Protection For Homeowners

Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner

## Termites are a serious problem in Florida

Wood-destroying organisms, such as termites, are a very serious problem in Florida. They attack and damage any building material that contains cellulose, such as wood used in house and building construction, drywall covered with paper, or siding materials containing cellulose. The pests commonly encountered in Florida include subterranean termites, dry-wood termites, and several wood-destroying beetles.

One of the most prevalent and dangerous wood-destroying organisms is the subterranean termite, which can cause significant wood damage to a house and other structures. The termite's activity generally goes unnoticed until extensive damage becomes visible, and the economic impact is substantial.



Subterranean termites—workers and reproductives.



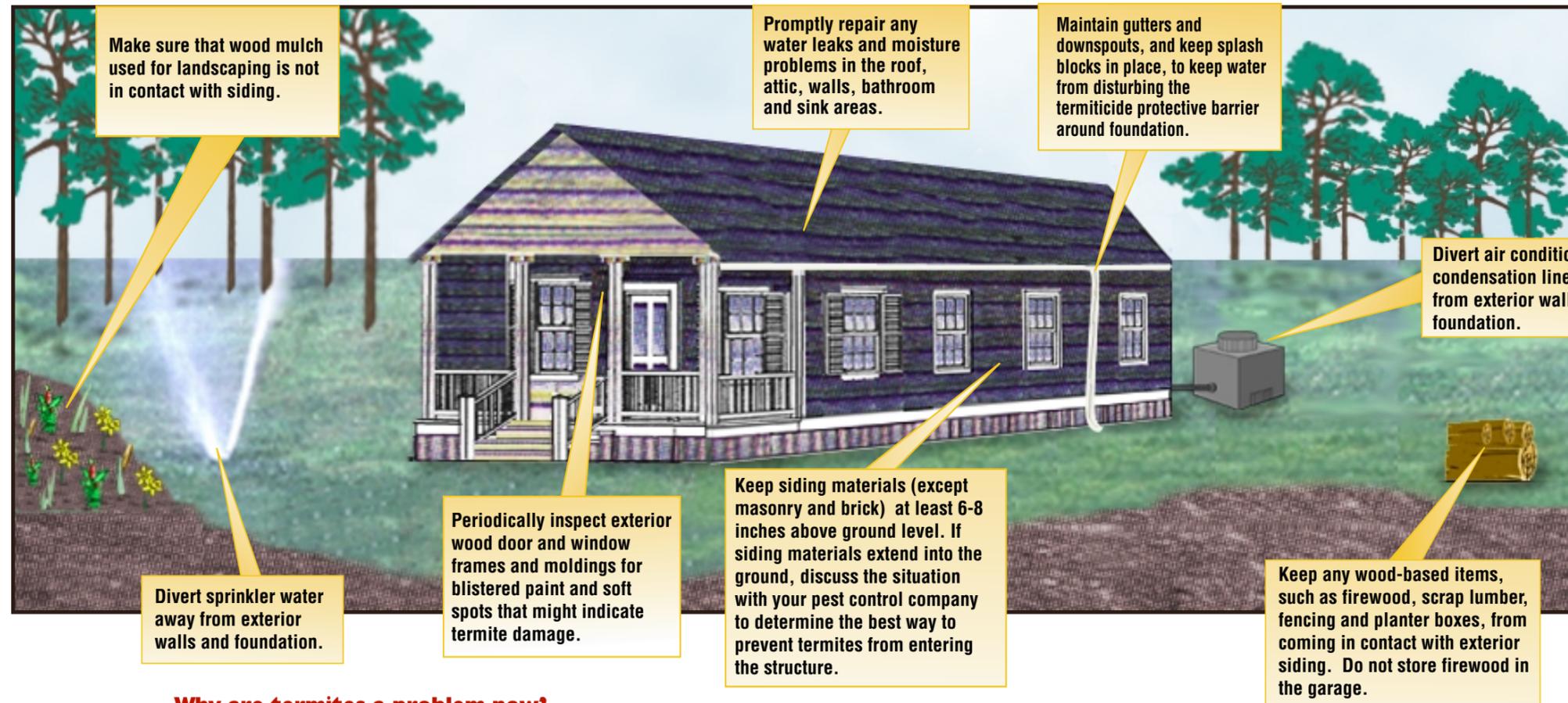
Subterranean termite damage to wall studs.

## What can a homeowner do to protect against termites?

Houses and other wood structures can be protected from termites only if they are constructed and maintained properly, and a protective treatment is applied correctly. If you are having a house built, make sure that termite protection is considered in the design and construction of the house. Also make sure that your general contractor has a qualified pest control company provide termite protection treatment during appropriate stages of construction.

Proper termite protection treatment during construction typically requires at least two separate applications, and may require several more. Ask your builder how your house is being protected from termites.

If your house is already built, there are still many things you can do to enhance your termite protection:



### Why are termites a problem now?

For many years up to 1988, the use of chlordane or similar pesticides to treat the soil prior to finishing the foundation was an effective means of controlling termites and protecting the wood in a structure.

This situation changed dramatically in April 1988, when the use of chlordane and similar pesticides was stopped due to concerns about environmental and human

health effects. These products were replaced with pesticides considered to be safer for the environment and human health. But these characteristics also made the products less effective for termite protection. While chlordane generally lasted more than 30 years, currently available materials last only five to 15 years, and require more precise application.



Application of termite protection chemicals during construction.

## Working with a pest control operator

Termite protection chemicals (termiticides) can only be used by state-licensed pest control applicators. Termiticides must be applied as required by label directions.

**Florida law requires that a contract be issued whenever a termite treatment is conducted.**

### Termite protection contracts

Contracts covering treatments for protection against subterranean termites while a house is under construction must state that if a termite infestation occurs in, on, or under the structure during the warranty period, additional treatment will be made to the infested area. The warranty must be valid for a year and offer the homeowner the option to extend the contract annually for an additional four years. Many pest control companies offer a repair warranty as well, which will cover the cost of repair to the structure if termite infestation occurs during the term of the contract. You should ask your builder what kind of warranty is offered in the contract and obtain a copy of the contract.

Contracts and warranties for post-construction treatment vary from company to company. However, the use of some terms in a contract have been specified in law, Florida Statutes, Chapter 482.227



Termite shelter tubes entering structure.