

# 10 Ways To Protect Your Home From Termites

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Can termite infestations be prevented in Florida? In many cases the answer is yes. Before we talk about prevention, however, an understanding of what attracts termites will help guide us. Like all living creatures, termites are attracted to the basics: food, water and shelter.

**Food:** Termites will consume any material that contains cellulose, and because wood contains a great deal of cellulose, termites love it. They'll also eat cardboard, paper or any vegetation that contains cellulose. But they prefer wood.

**Shelter: Subterranean** termites build their nests underground. **Drywood** termites build their nests in wood.

**Water:** Termites cannot survive without a source of water nearby. Because wood and soil are available nearly everywhere, it can be said that **water is the primary attractant of termites**. Termites, like people, seek out a source of water and build a home nearby.

Armed with the above knowledge, we can now look at ways to prevent termites from attacking your home. **The primary strategy is: limit access to food, water and shelter.**

1) Periodically, get your home inspected for termite damage. A once-a-year [termite inspection](#) can save your home with early detection. If termites are not found, a trained termite specialist can offer recommendations to help prevent an infestation. They may catch something you missed.

## Limit access to moisture

2) Identify and fix all water leaks in your home no matter how small. Look for other sources of water, such as air conditioning condensation. Look for ways to eliminate or limit these sources, or find ways to channel the moisture away from the house. Eliminate any standing or pooling water from around your home.

## Limit access to food and shelter

3) Since we have no way to limit access to soil, we'll focus our efforts on limiting access to wood. To that end, store all spare or scrap wood, or firewood well away from the house. No piece of wood should touch the ground. Use concrete blocks or metal to raise the wood off the ground.

4) Use treated lumber for any wooden structures that will have direct contact with the ground. Use concrete supports to raise decks and other wooden structures off the ground.

5) Research done at the University of Florida has proven that wood mulch doesn't attract termites. But if the mulch is piled up against the house, it can provide termites with the access to your home.

6) Never bury waste lumber or wood scraps in your yard. It acts as a magnet to termites and directs them to your property.

7) Remove any dead trees, old stumps, or roots in your yard.

8) Seal any cracks or holes around the outside of your home to prevent easy access by termites.

9) Keep all gutters and waterlines clean of debris. Clogged gutters and waterlines leak, creating pools of water close to the house.

10) Make sure your home is properly ventilated, including your attic and any internal crawl spaces. Adequate airflow prevents the buildup of moisture needed by termite colonies.

[Florida Bug Inspectors](#) serves customers in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk, Pasco and Manatee counties, including the communities of Tampa, Brandon, Temple Terrace, Plant City, Ruskin, St Petersburg, Clearwater, Largo, and Wesley Chapel. Contact us at 813-727-4758 or at russ (at) inspection-termite.com