

What Homeowners Need to Know About Termite Inspections

By Russ Frank – Florida Bug Inspectors – www.inspection-termite.com

Q: What's involved in a termite inspection?

A: A professional termite inspector performs a complete visual inspection of the readily accessible areas of a structure for evidence of both wood-destroying insects and wood-destroying organisms. The inspector will visually inspect the entire interior of a structure including attic and crawlspace, plus the exterior of the structure. The inspection also includes other freestanding structures such as garages, docks and fencing that attach to the house or screened pool areas.

On average, a thorough termite inspection takes about 45 minutes to an hour, depending on the size, complexity and conditions (e.g. clutter; storage of personal items, etc.) of the structure and property.

Although the inspection is commonly called a [termite inspection](#), the professional inspector is also looking for all wood-destroying insects, including several kinds of termites and beetles. The inspector is also looking for ants, bugs and fungus. Inspectors routinely look in the attic area as well for evidence of termites.

Q: Could there be hidden termite damage?

A: Yes. One of the main characteristics of termites and termite colonies is their tendency to avoid open air and bright lights. They will stay underground or inside the wood. It is almost impossible for an inspector to visually identify or locate an active termite infestation just by looking at the outside surface of a wall or the trim.

Q: Does the termite inspection cover all types of wood-destroying organisms?

A: The state of Florida limits the scope of inspections to termites, carpenter bees, and re-infesting wood-boring beetles. In Florida, carpenter ants are excluded because Florida carpenter ants don't infest (eat) new wood. They only nest in old, rotten, or damaged wood.

[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 Russ at 813-727-4758 or at Russ (at) inspection-termite.com