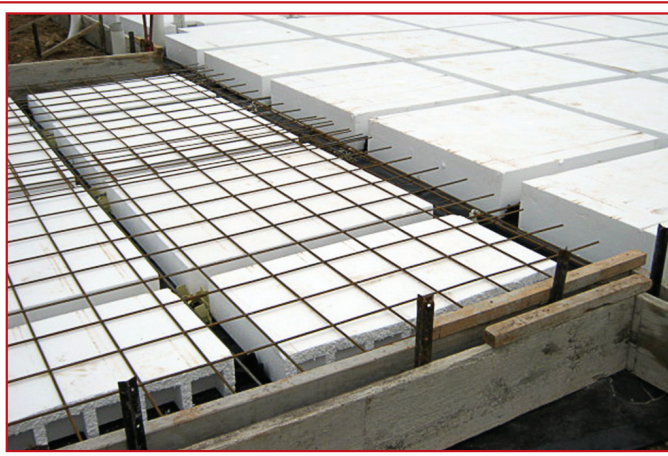




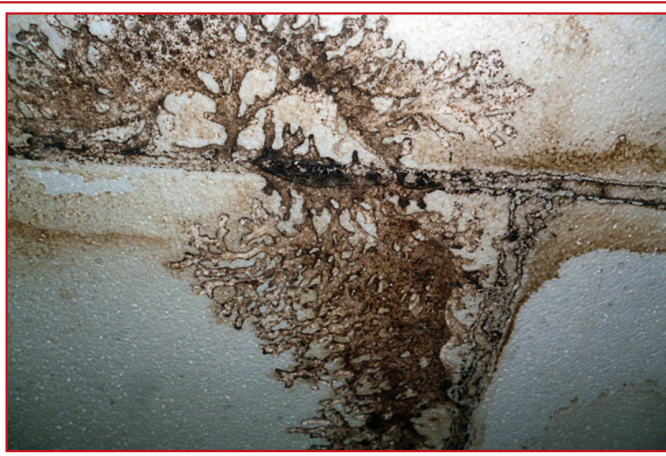
A termite subnest in a wall cavity.



Garden mulch as a food source, plus a leaky pipe, provide the opportunity for termites to establish.



Example of waffle pod slab under construction.



Termite damage on polystyrene.

To be effective during the grooming process, the toxicant used in a baiting system or barrier treatment must be non-repellent and act slowly to allow plenty of time for termite workers to transfer it to the rest of the colony. Termidor dust has a unique edible cellulose carrier and contains fipronil. The carrier is highly palatable and the termites eat the cellulose, ingesting the fipronil. An experiment conducted by Eco-Global Termite Doctor showed that termites even used Termidor dust to repair damaged mud trails. The 'Transfer Effect' of Termidor dust can be boosted when termites travel through the repaired sections.

Termites are more likely to infest a structure if the soil around it is constantly moist. Such water problems can be due to blocked drains, damaged downpipes or leaking plumbing pipes. Roof or plumbing leaks can enable termites to survive and colonise structures above the ground without soil contact. A termite inspector may be able to detect such moisture problems in the wall or behind a shower with a moisture meter or a thermal imaging camera. Humid conditions in a subfloor can enable termites to construct longer and thicker mud tubes. Providing adequate ventilation can reduce humidity in the subfloor.

Frequent inspection (at least every 12 months) should be included in a termite management program. Less than 20% of homes are inspected or serviced by pest professionals. The main reason most homeowners are reluctant to invest in an annual inspection is that they think that a chemical/physical barrier previously installed in their homes is sufficient protection. They do not realise that all barriers can be breached.

In summary, a holistic approach to managing termites includes building houses resistant to termites (using materials unpalatable to termites), taking measures to prevent conditions favourable to termite establishment (e.g. garden mulch and polystyrene abutting the wall, water leaks) and having regular inspections to monitor homes for their presence.

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