



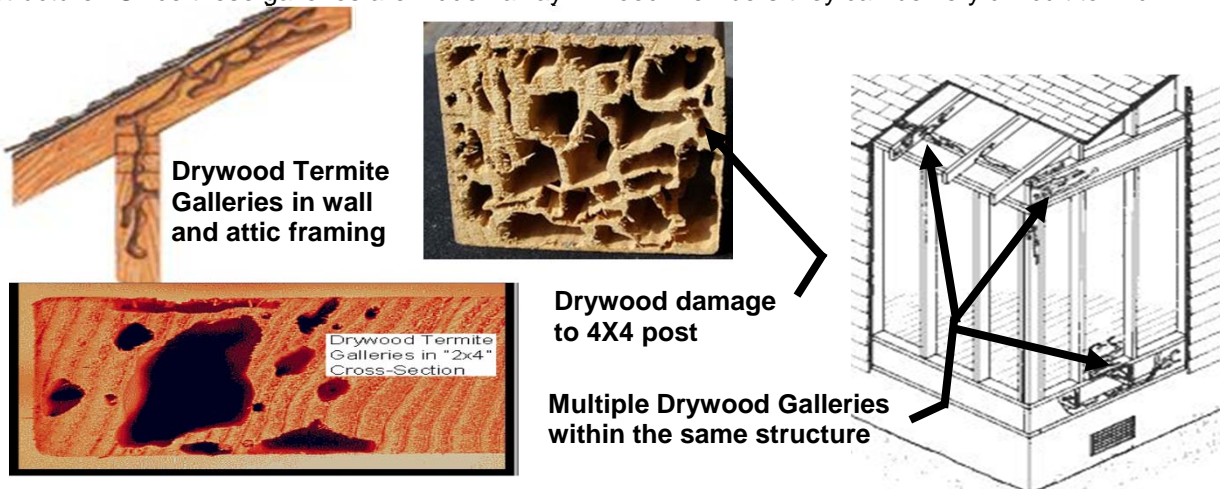
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Drywood Termites

In Northern California our most frequent termite is the Subterranean Termite. We also quite often encounter another variety of termite known as the Drywood Termite. While Subterranean Termites have a colony below the ground where they live and the commute up to the structure to feed, the Drywood Termite lives and feeds within the structure. They make galleries in the wood and gradually enlarge it as they the wood and make more space for an ever-growing colony.



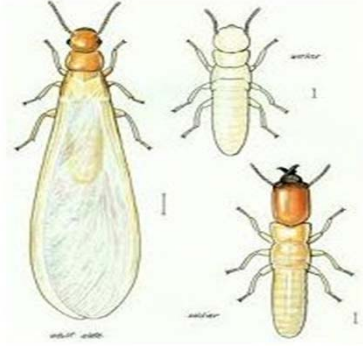
As you can see from the map above, California is in Drywood Termite country. Drywood Termites have smaller colonies than Subterranean Termites; however, they can have several colonies in the same structure. Since these galleries are hidden away in wood members they can be very difficult to find.



What are some signs that might suggest you have a Drywood Termite infestation in your home?

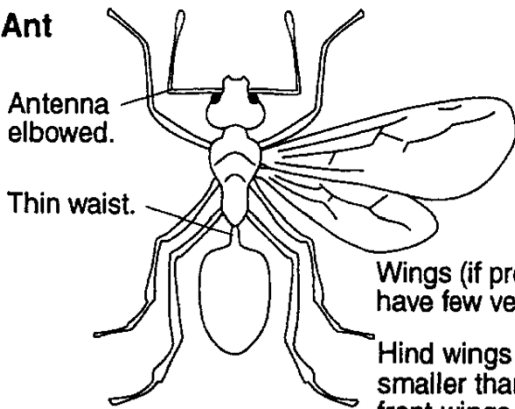
Drywood Termite Swarmers

Drywood Termites have swarmers. They are the reproductives of the colony. Drywood tend to swarm in the late summer and early fall. Drywood swarmers are slightly larger than Subterranean Termite swarmers. They have a reddish tan body and have translucent wings of a similar color.



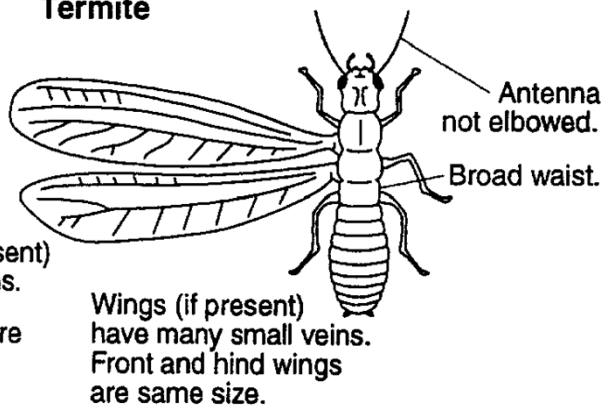
Ants also have swarmers. The illustration below shows how to distinguish ant swarmers from termite swarmers.

Ant

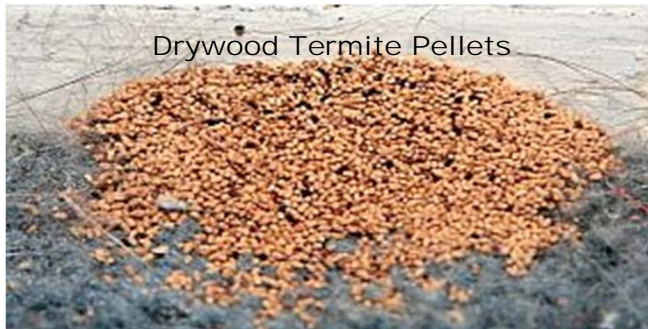


Wings (if present) have few veins.
Hind wings are smaller than front wings.

Termite



Drywood Termite Pellets. The other evidence common to drywood termite infestations is fecal pellets. These pellets are about the sized of unground pepper and will normally be about the same color as the infested wood. The drywood termites will use "kick holes" to remove the pellets from the galleries. You may find small piles of them below gallery locations.



Drywood Termite Pellets - Enlarged



DRYWOOD TERMITE TREATMENT OPTIONS

PRIMARY RECOMMENDATION

The primary treatment recommendation for Drywood Termites is to tarp and fumigate the structure.

Vikane gas is pumped into the tarped home and the gas permeates the wood members and eradicates all the Drywood Termites in the structure.

This procedure requires some preparation and the residents will have to be out of the home for 2 - 3 days until the unit is cleared.



SECONDARY RECOMMENDATION - SPOT TREATMENTS

The goal of most secondary recommendations is to discover the gallery and treat it with termiticide. There are various products available for spot treatments. Foam based termiticides work well because the foam will fill the entire gallery and force the product into all the voids. Besides foams there are various liquid and aerosol products which can also be effective.

There are obvious limitations with spot treatments. The treatment is only effective in galleries treated. Another undiscovered gallery even a few feet away will not be affected by the treatment. Galleries in inaccessible or hard to reach areas may not be discovered or treated. Most limited treatments have very limited warranties - usually 1 year to the treatment area only.

Alternative Treatments

There are some alternative treatments that have been tested. The efficacy of most of these has been questionable and therefore not universally embraced by the industry. Some of these alternative methods: Microwave Treatment, Electro Shock treatment, Heat Treatment, Freezing, etc.

You can ask your Termite Inspector about the various methods available and what recommendation is best for your home.



EXAMPLES OF DRYWOOD TERMITE INFESTATION AND DAMAGE