

## Might Have Termites?

The dos and don'ts.....



As most home owners already know; the Surf Coast is a high-risk area for Termites. This is particularly true for those of us in Lorne, who live in close proximity to the Otway Ranges.

However, what many people don't know is "why?"

Interestingly the main reasons we have termites are some of the same reasons we have tourist – no offence meant! In short; Mild/Warm weather & Lots of trees.

Of course all insects are more active in warmer weather and termites are no exception. Added to which, the Otway's and Surf Coast have some of the best, most *tasty*, trees in Victoria (from a termite's perspective). Varieties like Eucalyptus regnans (Mountain Ash) and Eucalyptus obliqua (Messmate) are both indigenous to our area and popular with insects.

In fact Mountain Ash is so yummy it is one of the varieties of timber most used as an attractant in termite baiting systems.

If you think you might have termites;

- **Seek advice** from an expert – like a Pest Controller or experienced Builder.
- **Don't** disturb the workings, as this will only serve to complicate any remedy.
- **Never** simply remove termite damaged timber without treating the insects first.

The Australian Standards for pest control advises that every home should be inspected for Timber Pests *at least* every 12-months, a service which is offered by most Licenced Pest Controllers. These annual tests provide the best first-line defence against attack from termites and provide great peace of mind.

In the next few issues we will provide more information on early detection and some partical prevention methods. Meanwhile here is a useful link for those who would like to know more:  
<http://www.csiro.au/news/features/termites.html>

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**TERMITE WATCH**

PEST CONTROL

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[www.termitewatch.com.au](http://www.termitewatch.com.au)