TOP 10 TERMITE MISTAKES MADE BY HOMEOWNERS

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The 10 top Termite Mistakes made by Home-Owners

Most Home-Owners are blissfully unaware, that they can be inviting Termites into their home and are setting themselves up for major structural damage in their most prized possession – their home or investment property! How do they do this?

Most owners from the day they take possession of their home extend the Termite Invitation immediately. Existing Home-Owners have been doing so unwittingly for years!

Your invitation can unwittingly be extended by simply by giving your yard a facelift in time for summer or merely trying to keep warm – during winter! To assist you from unwillingly issuing this invitation we have detailed the Top 10 Mistakes we see by Home-Owners around their homes or investment properties.

The Top 10 Termite Mistakes made by Home-Owners have been outlined for you courtesy of The Termite King on the following pages…
Mistake # 10 – Repairing services on your property and disrupting any soil treatment.

If your soil gets disrupted, for electrical, plumbing or gas work, it is possible that you have compromised any pre-existing soil based Termite treatment.

This mistake is serious enough that it can negate any workmanship guarantees made by your Termite Prevention company.

**Remedy:** After any repairs to your home or services that can disrupt the soil around the perimeter of your home, you should re-treat this area immediately or call your Pest Control company for an immediate Barrier upgrade. Any disruption to the soil can compromise your Termite Barrier providing an immediate entry point for Termites which is a predicament you need to avoid!

Mistake # - 9 – Digging around your home’s foundations,

For example to establish a beautiful new garden, digging around your home’s foundations can disrupt the trenched barrier that has previously been created, therefore opening a “hole” where Termites can enter.

Your adorable new puppy who likes digging holes around the house can also disrupt existing barriers creating the “hole” where Termites can enter.

This mistake is also serious enough that it can also negate any workmanship guarantees made by your Termite Prevention company.

**Remedy:** After any repairs to your home or services that can disrupt the soil around the perimeter of your home, you should re-treat this area immediately or call your Pest Control company for an immediate Barrier upgrade. Any disruption to the soil can compromise your Termite Barrier providing an immediate entry point for Termites.
Mistake # - 8 – Establishing structural contact with the ground,

Building a wooden verandah or deck that touches the soil, provides Termites with an unhindered pathway to the structural areas of your home.

Remedy: Ensure that your builder does not compromise your Termite Barrier and your home by leaving wooden structures with direct contact to the soil.

Mistake # - 7 – Leaving old tree stumps in your yard.

Dead trees are a feast for Termites. Dead tree stumps and branches in your yard can amount to a launching pad for a Termite attack on your home.

Firewood or old wood should be kept at a minimum of 5 metres from your home and should not be stored with direct contact to the soil areas.

Remedy: Remove or relocate all wood to a minimum distance of 5 metres from your home’s perimeter and do not store wood directly on the soil.

Mistake # - 6 – Stacking firewood near your home.

Leaving firewood up against your house, like mistake numbers 7 & 8, it provides an unhindered pathway to the structural areas of your home!

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Remedy: Remove or relocate all wood to a minimum distance of 5 metres from your home’s perimeter and do not store wood directly on the soil.

Mistake # - 5 – Having untreated wood materials near your home,

An untreated fence might keep your dog contained, but it may also provide a feeding ground for Termites then, an unhindered pathway to the structural areas of your home.
Remedy: Arrange for ALL untreated timber around your home to be treated. A termite treatment is a significantly cheaper alternative to replacement of untreated wood.

Mistake # - 4 – Construction of new additions to your home

Without expanding your Termite protection can also provide an unhindered pathway to the structural areas of your home for Termites.

Any new concrete slabs required for a renovation should be pre-treated for termites prior to the slab being poured. In most states in Australia, this is a requirement under the building code.

Remedy: Ensure any building quotes for renovations include the cost provision for the Pre-Slab Termite treatment or change builders if not automatically provided for.

Mistake # - 3 – Using mulch around your home.

Oh yes it looks nice but it is wood mulch and looks even more desirable to Australia’s termites, than its charming appearance or practicality.

Remedy: Locate a suitable alternative to mulch around your home – remove the mulch as quickly as possible.

Mistake # - 2 – Using DIY Termite products to control Termites,

Failure to do it right can have major consequences to your home or investment property – major structural damage to your most prized possession and substantial rectification expense and Termite damage is not covered by most Building Insurance policies.

The Australian Pest Controllers Association specifically recommends 'Do NOT attempt do-it-yourself termite control...leave it to the experts'\(^1\)

Remedy: Call your Licenced Pest Technician– In Perth call Peter at The Termite King 9344 5132


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Mistake # - 1 - Avoiding Professional Inspections

Termites are not easily detected and sometimes are unable to be detected with the naked eye. Trained professionals know Termite behaviour, they know where they likely to hide and can detect the early warning signs of any Termite activity.

Remedy: Call your Licenced Pest Technician – In Perth call Peter at The Termite King 9344 5132

The average Home-Owner is unaware that Termites can travel up to 100 metres from their nest. So it is possible that you have not been inviting Termites into your home, but a neighbour within 100m radius has been unwittingly feeding and housing Termites – which presents a problem for not only you and them but all your neighbours within that 100m radius. The Australian Pest Controllers Association website states “Termites by nature have a central colony nest containing a king and queen - soldiers escort hundreds of thousands of workers as they tunnel through soil a 100 metre radius of the nest and build mud-tube galleries over hard objects and between timber joints to keep airtight conditions.”


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