

Termites are a Real Estate Nightmare

Termites cause horrific damage to a building, but to what extent is not widely understood. It's likely much worse than ever imagined - here are a few facts:

- North Carolina is designated by the federal government as an "area of heavy termite infestation." The International Building Code echoes that position.
- Termites do twice as much damage as fire and storms combined.
- The annual cost of damage and treatment is \$2 billion worldwide.
- More than \$1.5 billion is spent in the United States alone.
- Over 2 million homes in the United States will require treatment this year.
- Over 600,000 homes in the United States will suffer major damages from termites.

Subterranean termites are by far the most destructive species. When termites infest buildings, they damage lumber, wood panels, flooring, sheetrock and basically anything that is made of cellulose material. The most serious damage is the loss of structural strength. Other costly losses include attacks on flooring, carpeting, art work, books, clothes, furniture and valuable papers. Scientists say that, based on normal feeding activity, it takes three to eight years to cause appreciable damage. Some experts predict that, under ideal conditions, a termite colony of 60,000 workers may consume a one-foot section of 2-inch by 4-inch pine in 118 to 157 days.

*For complete information on the
Wood-Destroying Insect (WDI)
Accredited Inspector Program
and to find a qualified professional
in your area, go to
www.wdir.org.*

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