



# Allpest Pest Awareness

## Keeping you informed

Our Pest Awareness Series offer informative, easy to understand information on a range of problem pests.

We aim to keep you in control and as well as maintain a safe and healthier environment for your immediate surrounding.

Our Pest Awareness Sheets present facts such as:

- Overview
- Ecology and Habit
- Breeding Cycle

For more range on the series, please visit our website [www.allpest.com.au](http://www.allpest.com.au) or call us at 08 9416 0200



## Overview

Termites are insects belonging to Order Isoptera. They are often referred as 'white ants', however, they do not resemble the habits of true ants.

In Australia, there are approximately 300 species of termites, fortunately there are only about 15 species that feed on timbers and the rest are mainly grass feeders.

There are three types of termites:

- Dampwood termites generally feed on moist rotten logs on the forest floor and are harmless to human dwellings.
- Drywood termites live in the dead wood of trees and timber in houses. They obtain their moisture from the timber they eat and require no contact with the soil.
- Subterranean termites are generally ground-dwelling and require soil contact or some external source of moisture. Subterranean termites cause the most damage to timber in Australia.

## Ecology

Termite lives in colonies and the size may vary from hundreds to thousands or even millions. Five main forms of the colonies are: ground mound, arboreal mound or tree nest, pole nest, subterranean nest and tree wood.

## Lifecycle

Termites have a gradual or incomplete metamorphosis. The developmental stages are egg - nymph - adult and the development period may take 2 - 4 months or longer depending on factors such as temperature, food availability and the strength of the colony.

## Habits

Termites are social insects, they live and work together in large colonies with each individual having a specific task to perform to enable the colony to function. These tasks are working (workers), protecting (soldiers) and reproducing.

## Subterranean Termites (*Coptotermes acinaciformis*)



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