

Termites of the Pacific Northwest

There are **two types** of termites in our area – the **subterranean** and the **dampwood**.



The winged reproduction of the **dampwood termite** is the orange-brown insect that flutters up out of stumps and wooded areas in the fall of the year. The wingless workers are the ones you discover when you open up wet or rotted wood. They do not normally live in sound, dry wood. They are only a problem if you have wet and rotting wood.



The **subterranean termite** winged reproductive insect is much smaller than the dampwood and black. It may swarm in large numbers out of a nest. The workers live in the ground and make tubes up to cellulose food above. The tubes are necessary to retain the humidity. These termites can be problem, although they are found mainly in certain areas and pockets in those areas.



A **subterranean termite** is often discovered by the presence of the shelter tubes they build from the soil up a foundation wall. They will often live on wood that is buried in the ground or in contact with the ground. The workers can not live if they are exposed to the dry air. They will often enter above ground through the cold joint between the concrete floor and the foundation or through small cracks in the concrete. The workers never stop eating and they can do considerable damage before they are discovered.

Antennae straight or curved with segments beadlike

Middle part of body broad

Wings similar in size and shape



Termite

Antennae bent or "elbowed"

Middle part of body narrow

wings unlike in size and shape



Ant

You can easily tell the difference between the winged reproductive "swarmer" of an ant and a termite – see picture at left

You can help prevent termites by keeping wood out of contact with the ground. This means wooden supports, form boards in the crawl and any wood next to the foundation. Divert water away from foundation and keep crawl area ventilated and dry.



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