

Termites in Natural Areas Fact Sheet

What are termites?

Termites, also known as 'white ants' are insects which feed on wood, fabric, paper and other plant materials.

There are over 300 species of termites found in Australia and only about 15 are known to cause harm to buildings.

Termites are also an essential part of our natural environments, as they can break down decaying wood and become a food source for other species.

Termites' play a crucial role in local ecosystems and in regenerating plant communities within Fairfield City including the critically endangered Cumberland Plain plant community. This means Council cannot carry out termite control in protected natural areas.

However just because termites are found on a living tree, it doesn't always mean the tree will die or become dangerous, as most species of termites only feed on dead wood and not the living tissue a tree needs to survive.

Just because termites are present on Council land, such as parks or bushland reserves, this does not mean they will cause a threat to private property.

Fairfield City Council will not act on termite infestations in parks or natural areas unless they pose a direct threat to humans.

It is your responsibility to manage any termite infestations on your own land.





How to manage termites?

New buildings with wooden structures that could be attacked by termites must have a termite barrier installed during the time of construction.

These barriers are not completely fool-proof, so property owners should also:

- Arrange regular inspections of vulnerable wooden structures with a licensed pest controller
- Allow easy access into sub-floor cavities to facilitate regular termite inspections
- Maintain pipes, plumbing fixtures and gutters to prevent leaks into wooden structures which could cause wood rot.

If a termite infestation is detected, it is recommended to contact a licensed pest controller to carry out remedial works.

This responsibility falls solely on the property owner.

For further information:

Search: <https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/building-and-renovating/after-you-build-or-renoate/termites>
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