

Dampwood Termites

QUICK STATS:



Color:

Creamy white to brownish



Shape:

Long, narrow and oval



Size:

$\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long



Region:

Found throughout the Pacific coastal and adjacent states, the desert or semi-arid southwest, and southern Florida



Dampwood Termites



Family Hodotermitidae

OVERVIEW:

As the name suggests, dampwood termites infest wood with a high moisture content. Dampwood termites are normally larger than other termite species. Bodies of king and queen dampwood termites range in size from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long and have two pairs of wings that are equal in size and shape, extending beyond their abdomen. Nymphs can be as long as $\frac{5}{8}$ inch and worker dampwood termites are up to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in size.

HABITS:

Dampwood termite colonies, like drywood termites, have no worker caste. The nymph dampwood termites take care of the kings and queens of the colony and feed the soldier caste. Drywood termites are usually found in logs, stumps, dead trees, fence posts and utility poles.

THREATS:

Because of their need for excessive moisture, dampwood termites are not often found in structures. However, these termites will infest sound wood if moisture is maintained, especially where wood is in contact with the ground or there is a moisture supply such as a leaky pipe. Care must be taken to avoid attracting dampwood termites to a structure as they can cause serious property damage.

PREVENTION:

- Eliminate sources of moisture by diverting water away from your home's foundation with properly functioning downspouts, gutters and splash blocks. Repair leaking faucets, water pipes and AC units on the outside of the home.
- Reduce humidity in crawl spaces, attics and basements with proper ventilation.
- Store firewood at least 20 feet away from the house and 5 inches off the ground.
- Keep mulch at least 15 inches from the foundation and avoid wood-to-ground contact.
- Replace any damp or damaged wood on your home's exterior.
- If you suspect a termite problem, contact a licensed pest professional right away.

DID YOU KNOW? Dampwood termites...

- eat wood across the grain.
- create a series of chambers in wood, which are connected by tunnels with smooth walls, as if sandpapered.
- and other termite species cause a collective \$5 billion in property damage each year.

For more information, visit PESTWORLD.org

