



**THE UNBIASED VOICE OF THE
STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL
INDUSTRY IN INDIA**

**Conference-cum-
Workshop on
Termites &
Roaches
Nov 21-23, 2003**



Anti-termite treatment in buildings: A job of professionals

Dr. B.S. Rawat

Scientist-in-Charge, Building Pests and Mycology Laboratory,
Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee-247 667
Uttaranchal, India

The cost of building construction is increasing by 50% over the normal inflation due to hike in the cost of basic building materials and labour. Today, construction industry has entered into a revolutionary phase. Computer-aided-design, efficient and versatile machinery, highly sophisticated equipment, tens of kinds of concrete, amazing grades of cement, steel and eco-friendly substitute to the conventional materials are fast playing a pivotal role in changing the construction scene around the world.

Yet, in India, the old and traditional line is being followed. Result: wastage, leakage, cracks, dampness, efflorescence and termite attacks. Termites are well known pest in many part of the world, where they attack any cellulose-based materials. About one third of the timber produced worldwide is lost due to various biodegrading agents; termites are one of them. It is impossible to build structures so termites can not cause damage.

All termites need is a small crack in concrete basement, loose mortar joint or tiny gaps around pipe and their search for wood is on. Termites can eat away at homes if adequate physical or chemical barriers are not maintained. It cause damage to all kinds of woodwork, furniture, furnishings, clothing, stationery, rubber, plastic, leather materials and even the lead coating of underground cables.

The damage caused by termites are more than all other natural disasters combined. Termite appear to be an ideal group of organism for bio-geographical analysis because of their antiquity, low dispersal capability and manageable diversity. Principal types of termites are – subterranean (nest in the soil), damp-

wood (infest damp-wood) and dry-wood termites (infest dry-wood).

Among all, subterranean termites are the most destructive and frequently encountered kind of termite infesting buildings worldwide. Aerial nests can occur without aground connection if all castes of the colony are present and moisture is available.

Termite control in buildings has become a major issue in 1988, when chlorinated hydrocarbons (such as Aldrin, Chlordane, Heptachlore and similar pesticides) were banned due to environmental and health concerns. These products were replaced with other pesticides considered to be more environmentally acceptable and less risky but are not as effective in the long term.

The best control of termites is prevention and the best time to provide protection is during the planning and construction of a building. All new construction sites must be treated with termiticide to prevent future termite attack and damage. Once the structure is in place, it is much more difficult to ensure that the chemical is actually applied uniformly.

Termite infestations can go undetected for years, hidden behind dry wall, paneling, floor covering, insulation or other obstructions. Subterranean and dry-wood termites require completely different control methods.

Therefore, the termites must be correctly identified. Workers and immature are virtually impossible to identify. Many of the potential termite entry points are hidden and difficult to access. Detecting an infestation often requires the trained eyes of a

C O B W E B

Pest Control Association of India

professional PCO inspector. The most experienced inspector can overlook hidden damage also.

Termites control requires specialized training in the installation of an interception and or baiting systems as well as the proper use of supplemental treatments that may be employed, such as liquid chemical barriers, foams and wood protectants.

Ridding a home of termites requires extensive knowledge of termiticide applied pre-construction shall be applied in specific amounts, concentration and treatments area designated by the label. It also requires specialized equipment and the application of large amounts of termiticide. Ultimately, the quality of anti-termite treatment job depends less on the person who sells the job than the individual who does the job.

Volume is important to allow uniform treatment of areas under the slab. Generally, more the volume the

more uniform the coverage. Inadequate distribution of chemical, improper volumes of termiticide application or insufficient treatments of critical and non-critical areas are major causes of termiticide failure. More important than the brand of termiticide is that the treatment be performed by an experienced technician, backed by a responsible pest control firm.

A safe and effective treatment requires an experienced technician, not some one who was hired a few weeks ago. Given the substantial financial investments of home, termite treatment is a job of professionals. In the present paper bio-ecology, pest status of termites, alternative methods of termite control and other non-toxic and eco-friendly remedial measures has been discussed in details.

The paper is to be presented in "Pest Control Conference" to be organized by "Pest Control Association of India" (PCAI) at Mumbai during 21-23rd November 2003.

With Best Complements from...

AIRTECH MARKETING



flykil-lite Machines

Electrical Operated Device
Non-Chemical, Non-Toxic.
To control: FLIES,
MOSQUITOES, WASPS
GNATS, MIDGES, MOTHS



Air-Tech Air curtains

An Invisible Door
Dust Rejection : 80-90%
Insect Rejection : 80-90%
Fumes Rejection : 80-90%
Elegant Looks, Silent

ULTRASCARE
PEST REPELLER



Ultra Sonic Rat Repeller

An Electrical Operated Device
Inaudible to Human Ear
To Repeller the Big
Enemy of Human
Rats and Mice.

Sales & Service: 50-B, Gowardandas building, 116-134, J.S.S. Road, Girgaum, Mumbai - 400 004.

Tel: 2380 1608/5602 1244 Cell: 98211 86205