

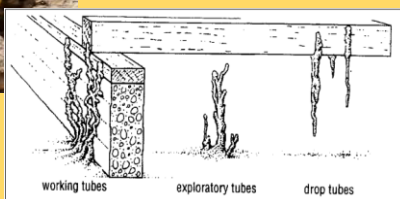
## TERMITES : Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

### Facts and Notes

There are nearly 3,000 species identified globally but the most common identified here in KAUST are the *Subteranean* and *Drywood termites*.

*Subteranean termites* are atmosphere sensitive. When they leave out from their colony to reach food sources, they build mud tunnels, called "mud tubes" to protect themselves from open air.

Termites are known as "silent destroyers" because of their ability to chew through wood, flooring and even wallpaper undetected. This pest is not known to harm people, but could cause costly damage to property because they eat 24/7. They eat wood or anything with cellulose materials like books, carpet and cloth. This is why it is very important to be very vigilant in termite's sign of activity and report immediately for control. Signs to look for are "mud tube" or mud trails on wall, floor, and woods such as door frame or furniture. While the swarmer, these are the typical first sign of season as they emerge from colony looking for new colony.



### Pest Control procedures in managing pests

1. Assess the area and conduct thorough inspection of wood structure. Opening of wood part where activity is suspected is essential.
2. Implement control following the applicable IPM principles, starting with;
  - **Cultural control** – reduction of clutter and keeping file of wood above the ground is highly recommended to minimize chances of activity and for easy monitoring.
  - **Chemical control** – unfortunately, pesticide is the only way to control damages of termites to properties. By following the product label claims, apply below after briefing the resident on the control procedure.
    - For severely damaged wood structure like door frame, ask Maintenance to replace it, light spot treatment may be applied before disposal.
    - At affected furniture or other items (e.g. carpet), assess and apply complete treatment only if it still has reasonable salvage value.
    - Initiate treatment with the highly diluted approved non-repellent pesticide at the soil to target the colony. Use the approved highly diluted Agenda 25EC - *Fipronil* 25 g/l (WHO Class: II, Local Reg.: 182-105-971).
3. Monitor the condition after applying the control and keep record for tracking. Activity may appear in areas that is not covered of treatment.

### What you can do to prevent termites at home

- In KAUST, termite's activity are common and the best area for immediate inspection for signs of activity is your garden. Look signs of activities on trees and dry woods present in your premise.
- Remove clutter specially woods. File the woods with enough distance from the ground for inspection and regular cleaning.
- Regularly check your furniture and carpets. Lift it and look for signs of activity. Do this also on books and on shelves.