Macy's Termite Presentation April 25, 2017

*Information about Termites (Allen Klibanoff)*

The following is a synopsis of a letter received from Walter Thomas, Macy’s Termite and Pest Control, to inform residents about termites:

Dear Homeowners,

Good News Pest Solutions, (formerly Macy's Termite & Pest Control, Inc.) provides your Association with a termite warranty program. This program, is a re-treatment warranty meaning that when termite activity has been identified, we will treat accordingly to resolve that issue. There are two types of termites which are covered under this warranty program, Subterranean and Drywood Termites.

Differences between the two: -

* Subterranean Termite colonies live in the ground, thus the name.
* Drywood Termite colonies live in wood above ground such as trees, homes etc.
* Subterraneans have colony sizes in the millions and may have 16 colonies per acre.
* Drywoods have small colonies usually a hundred or more.
* Subterranean Termite swarmers are black in color with long milky colored wings.
* Drywood Termite swarmers are brown with a clear set of wings displaying veins.
* Subterraneans usually swarm during the day from December through the end of April.
* Drywood Termites swarm from April through November at night.
* Subterraneans perform the most damage due to colony size.
* Drywood Termites are slower to damage due to a very small colony size.
* Subterranean Termites are stealthy and can go undetected until a swarm or damage is found.
* Drywood Termites expose themselves much earlier and are usually found outside.

Being the homeowner, you are much more familiar with your home. You are also the daily set of eyes in your home for whatever period of time you are present in Florida. As such, let me highlight some common things to be observant for regarding termite activity and/or damage. The most obvious one is a large population of flying insects all at one time (swarm). You will want to think through the following: 1) Is it daytime or evening? What month is it? Is the insect a black or brown color? (2) Does it have two or three sections to its body? Are the wings much longer than the body?

Those few questions can give you the answer as to whether the insect is an ant (three body sections; wings aren’t longer than the body) or a termite and whether it is a Subterranean or a Drywood termite. Please remember that ants also swarm as part of their own reproductive cycle. Ant swarms occur in the evening!

Damage from Subterranean Termites can be identified most commonly by noticing deteriorated molding around the floor and door or wood or shadowy/sunken markings on the drywall. Subterranean Termites also build grey dirt tunnels along walls to connect from the ground to a wood source if there is a gap between. Wood eaten by a Subterranean Termite will follow the grain of the wood.

Regarding Drywood Termites, a swarm is usually the first indicator. Remember, the swarm will be in the evening and the insect has wings longer than the body which will be brown. Drywood Termites also provide early warning signs of their presence. Termite frass, or pellets, are kicked out of the wood through a small hole. This frass, usually ends up being similar to the wood color the termite is feasting on. The pellets will mound up like a pyramid or scatter on the floor if that “kick-out” hole is high above the floor. These pellets are all identical in size. Wood eaten by Drywood Termites will look like galleries and cross over the grain of the wood.

Identifying a swarm, differentiating whether it's an ant or termite is always the first thing to consider. Drywood Termites kickout uniform pellets not wood shavings. When in doubt PLEASE do not hesitate to call our office. We will gladly visit and determine what is going on. If termites are found, we will design and schedule a treatment plan. Our office number is [(941) 412-9610](tel:(941)%20412-9610).