

# Termites & Commercial Property:

## *Are you protected?*

You already know how costly and damaging termites can be for homeowners. But, have you ever thought about the cost that would be involved if they attacked your commercial property? Termites do not prefer a home over a commercial property. They are only after one thing and that is a food source. Unfortunately, if your building has any structural wood then termites will find it appetizing. Profitability, image and your business's reputation are just a few of the negative consequences a termite infestation may affect.

### Signs of Termites?

Termites can be found in every U.S. state except Alaska, some regions are more susceptible to infestations than others, so it is important to stay alert to a potential issue no matter where you are located.

How do I know if my commercial property has termites? The signs below are a few things you or your staff can watch for that would indicate an infestation:

- Discarded wings near closed windows, doors or other access points.
- Mud tubes, about the size of a pencil, where the ground meets the building, on walls, ceilings, rafters and shelving.
- Wood damage found below or behind walls, floors and other services.

### What is a termite?

Termites are a species of insect that live in large social colonies and divide themselves into different casts: workers, soldiers, and reproductive. They build their colonies underneath the ground or in buildings that they invade. Termites tunnel through wood (preferring wood that has been previously damaged by water) and feed on it and other cellulose materials that they come across.

So, what does a termite look like? The works of a termite colony are mostly numerous members and have a soft body and are creamy white in color. They are wingless, blind and grow to be about ¼ of an inch in length. The soldiers look similar to the works but have strong jaws and elongated yellow heads. The reproductive are winged and are the largest member of the colony and are dark-brown to black in color, and grow to be about ¼ to ½ inch in length.

## When to call a professional?

If you or your staff sees any of the above signs call a pest professional as soon as possible. Termites forage 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, so the sooner they are discovered the better! When you contact a pest professional they will perform a thorough inspection of your property. After your inspection they will be able to put a plan of attack into place.

Even if you don't see signs of an infestation you should get your property set up on a protection plan. Termite damages are costly and will hurt your profitability. Stay ahead of the unexpected cost with a protection plan. If you have a protection plan in place then if your property is damaged by termites there is usually a guarantee that will cover the damages. That way your bottom line doesn't suffer from an unexpected termite attack.

Getting protected from termites is important for every commercial property. If you are searching for a pest control professional that can protect your property, call Schendel **1.800.591.7378**. Schendel offers a STEP Service for our commercial clients. Our system is designed to protect your facility even if it is a sensitive environment like a school, food production facility or hospital.