

# Termite Preventive housekeeping

You should check your home regularly for anything that may attract termites to minimise the risks.

The following housekeeping and gardening tips are designed to help you reduce the risk of damage:

- Plumbing leaks, drainage problems and roof leaks should all be dealt with promptly, as damp conditions attract termites.
- Garden beds and plants should be kept away from contact with outside walls. Hard paving should be substituted.
- Do not allow soil from garden beds to block drainage and ventilation openings in walls.
- Nothing should be stored against outside walls. This practice may allow termites to gain easy access to the wall cavity without early detection.
- Proposed extensions or alterations to the building must not result in the removal of existing termite barriers or access for inspections.
- Spaces under the floor must be kept well ventilated. Make certain that the air flow through vents is not obstructed.
- Watch for termite infestation in piles of fire wood or stacks of stored timber. These must be kept away from the house, raised above the ground and covered to keep them dry.
- Consider using termite-resistant timber for work on your home.
- Remove dead trees and stumps as soon as possible.
- Metal stirrups should be used for setting pergola, gate and verandah posts in the ground.
- Where possible, the use of untreated timber sleepers for retaining walls and garden beds should be avoided.
- Timber decking around verandahs and swimming pools should be cleaned and inspected regularly.