



Buying Termite Protection for Your Home or Business

Termites are one of the worst potential pests threatening homes and businesses across the US. However, while there are a number of ways to keep these destructive pests at bay, not all termite protection is the same - and if you choose the wrong provider, you could be setting yourself up for even more problems in the future.

Before you sign any contracts, here are ten of the most common misconceptions many homeowners and business owners have about termite protection you should be aware of in order to make the best decision possible to protect your property:

1. All termites are not the same.

Scientists have discovered and classified over 3,000 individual species of termites on the planet. Naturally, your location plays a big role in what type(s) of termites are most likely to get into your home or business - and therefore, the type of termite coverage you need.

In upstate South Carolina, the predominant termite species in the area are Eastern subterranean termites; however, Formosan termites can be found across the eastern side of the state and so could be a potential factor depending on your home's location. If they migrate west, will you be covered?

2. All termite treatments are not the same.

Naturally, different termite species will have different methods that work best to eliminate them. However, modern pest control companies in the United States primarily rely on two categories of termite treatments: liquid treatments and baits. Each requires different treatment methods and attack termites differently, and can vary from product to product based on the manufacturer.

3. All liquid treatments are not the same.

Different liquid treatments will contain different active ingredients, will operate using different modes of action, and can have varying residual effects on areas where they are applied. Certain situations will call for certain chemicals to be used than others. However, all liquid treatments have one thing in common: they don't last forever. Any liquid termite treatment your home or business receives will also require a "booster" retreatment every 5-10 years in order to keep you protected and maintain the warranty.

4. All termite bait systems are not the same.

Like liquid treatments, termite baits vary in function and mode of action from one product to the next, making it important to do your research before you buy.

However, while there are several bait systems on the market, the Sentricon System with Always Active® Bait has become an industry leader due to its effectiveness in eliminating both Eastern and Formosan termite colonies. This is because it attacks termites at their source: once foraging termites find the bait stations and take bait back to their colony and feed it to other members of their colony.

The active ingredient in the bait prevents the worker termites within the colony from moulting, causing them to be crushed by their own exoskeletons, while the queen and other reproductive termites are left unable to give birth to new colony members. The result is that existing termites within the colony gradually get eliminated while giving the colony no means to replenish these lost workers.



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In fact, Sentricon guarantees entire colony elimination for both Eastern and Formosan termites that take the bait. With the high population of termites in the southeast (averaging eight colonies for every acre), Sentricon provides is the go-to option for termite protection in the upstate. In effect, it's like having a service technician overseeing your property against termites at all times, twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year.

5. Termite bait IS very effective.

“Baiting” termites can sound counterproductive - wouldn't baiting them just lead them that much closer to your home? On the contrary, bait is actually the preferred method of termite treatment for many pest control providers. This is for a number of reasons, but the most important being that bait stations are easy to install, easy to maintain, non-intrusive, and form a strong protective barrier around the home. Best of all, once installed, bait stations are always on, giving you 24/7 protection against termites that could otherwise harm your home.

6. Termite damage is NOT covered by homeowners insurance.

The main reason termites are such a devastating pest to have is because they are NOT covered under your homeowners insurance as they are considered preventable. This is why professional termite protection is so important - and why it's vital that the protection plan you choose comes with a damage warranty in place.

7. A termite warranty IS a necessity

If you own a structure in the southeast, going without a termite warranty is leaving yourself at huge financial risk. Termites cause over \$5 billion in damage annually in the United States alone; in the Southeast it's not a matter of if but WHEN your home will be affected, and homeowners/property insurance won't help you if your home comes under infestation.

8. Termite warranties are NOT the same from one company to the next.

Termite warranties are only as good as the company that offers them. And while some companies provide all-encompassing warranties, others do not. This is also why, in addition to the fine print on the warranty itself, you'll want to look into the company itself before you buy.

- Are they a sizeable Business?
- Do they have a website?
- Do they have employees/what are the employees like?

If they go out of business, you'll lose both your protection and your warranty. As most are non-transferable from one company to the next, losing your termite control provider prematurely could put your home in jeopardy.



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9. Different termite treatments from the same provider DO NOT have the same warranty.

While some termite warranties are “re-treat only,” covering only the cost to treat active termite infestations that spring up after your initial service, others will pay to fix the damage created over that period of time. Likewise, different warranties will have different limits on the dollar amount of damage that will be covered, so review this information carefully before signing any contracts.

Some contracts don’t cover repair, some have deductibles, and each has their different exclusions. Some warranties are transferable when you sell your home, others are not. Know what your warranty covers before making a purchase.

10. Service agreements ARE necessary for termite treatments.

Never sign on for termite treatment without getting a service agreement first. This agreement should define how you will be covered, the initial cost, ongoing costs you’ll incur, the length of coverage, any exclusions you should be aware of, transferability should you sell your home, and any other relevant information you need to ensure you get only the services you need at the price you agreed to.