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Termite Prevention

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Termites at a Glance

What are Termites?

The termites found in Ontario are eastern subterranean termites. Termites occur in large colonies that live underground. They prefer damp conditions and sandy soils.

Termites do not like to be exposed to light so they will build shelter tubes above ground to feed on any available wood source. Shelter tubes maintain the damp, dark environment they require.



Identifying Termites

Termites are small insects that range in size from 1/8 inch to 1 inch in length. Termites have six legs and can be easily confused with an ant. But unlike the ant, termites are creamy brown or white in colour. Termites will travel 500 feet (150m) from their nest, while flying termites may travel up to 3000 feet (900m).

Termites and Your Property

Am I at Risk?

Any wood poses a risk for termite infestation. Stumps, dead trees, wood retaining walls, wood chip mulch, unused firewood piles all provide the ideal conditions required for the feeding and nesting of termites.

Termites will only feed on dead wood. Although termites favor softwoods, they will feed on almost every type of dead wood made available.

Wood is not the only material that can put your home at risk. Although termites do not feed off foam insulation, soft plastics, and underground cables they can be used to create tunnels and gain access to a food source.

When entering a structure, termites only require a crack or hole of 1/32 inch (0.003mm). Other methods a termite will use to enter a structure include building shelter tubes and tunneling through wood.

Improper drainage and damp shaded areas provide the ideal habitat for termites. By eliminating potential food sources and nesting conditions from around your home and accessory buildings you can reduce the risk of infestation.

Termite Prevention

How to Reduce the Risk

The best way to reduce the risk of a termite attack is through prevention.

Where possible avoid and eliminate wood soil contact:

- Remove any wood stored on the ground.
- Store firewood on concrete or steel elevated off the ground.
- When wood soil contact cannot be avoided, use a product treated to resist termites.
- Elevate sheds with concrete blocks and/or use concrete for floors.
- Remove any pressure treated retaining walls, edging boards, and railway ties. Treat fence posts with borate rods.
- Remove dead trees and, although not common, any infested live trees immediately. Be sure to remove the stump by excavating or grinding. When grinding ensure all chipped material is disposed of.
- Use mulch made of 100% bark or stone. Wood chip mulches should not be used.



Termite Prevention

Create and maintain a clear area around buildings:

- Allows for easy inspection.
- Remove any landscaping from around buildings that may hide entry points, shelter tubes and make inspection more difficult. A clear area 18 inches (450mm) is recommended above the ground.
- Keep new gardens and flower beds 18" (450mm) below the top of foundations.
- Use plants that will not intrude into the clear area.
- Regularly prune larger plants.



Where possible eliminate damp conditions around buildings:

- Direct downspouts and rainwater barrel overflow away from the buildings.
- Grade the property so water is directed away from the buildings and will not pool.
- Maintain existing drainage. Do not create gardens or plant trees and shrubs in swales.

Termite Prevention

Inspect your property regularly

If termites go undetected they can cause extensive and costly damage, which is why it is good practice to inspect your property regularly. The best time for completing inspections is between April and November.



To conduct your own inspection you should lift any movable wood in contact with the ground, examine stumps by removing bark or cutting into them, look in the crevices of large trees for shelter tubes, and examine compost bins, garages, sheds, under porches and decks, and exposed foundation walls.

Recognizing termites inside of your home

Termites may be present in your home when wood floors and baseboards warp or damage easily, a door or window no longer opens and closes, mud or other fine dust like particles on plaster and wood work appear, wood in windows begin to look blotchy in the varnish, and shelter tubes are present.



Inspect the Inside of Your Home

When inspecting the inside of your home begin in the basement looking for shelter tubes and any possible signs of damage using a flash light and screw driver if necessary.

Termite Prevention

If You Think Termites are Present

If You Find Signs of Termites but are Unsure

If think you may have termites but are not sure, please contact the building department at 519-396-3468 and someone will be able to assist you.

If You Find Termites

If you have found termites please contact the building department at 519-396-3468 and someone will be able to assist you in the removal and remediation.

Staying termite free

Have professional inspections conducted periodically. Keep non-treated wood 18 inches (0.45m) away from the soil. Watch for and maintain possible entry paths, termites only need a crack the size of 1/32 inch (0.003mm). Keep clear or relocate buried wood such as tree stumps or fire wood as these are possible termite habitats. Keep roof gutters clear and water draining away from the house. Fix any roof or plumbing leaks quickly to keep cellulose materials dry and maintain existing barriers.

Information, Maps and Other Resources

Need more information please contact the Building Department at 519-396-3468 or email buildings@kincardine.net .

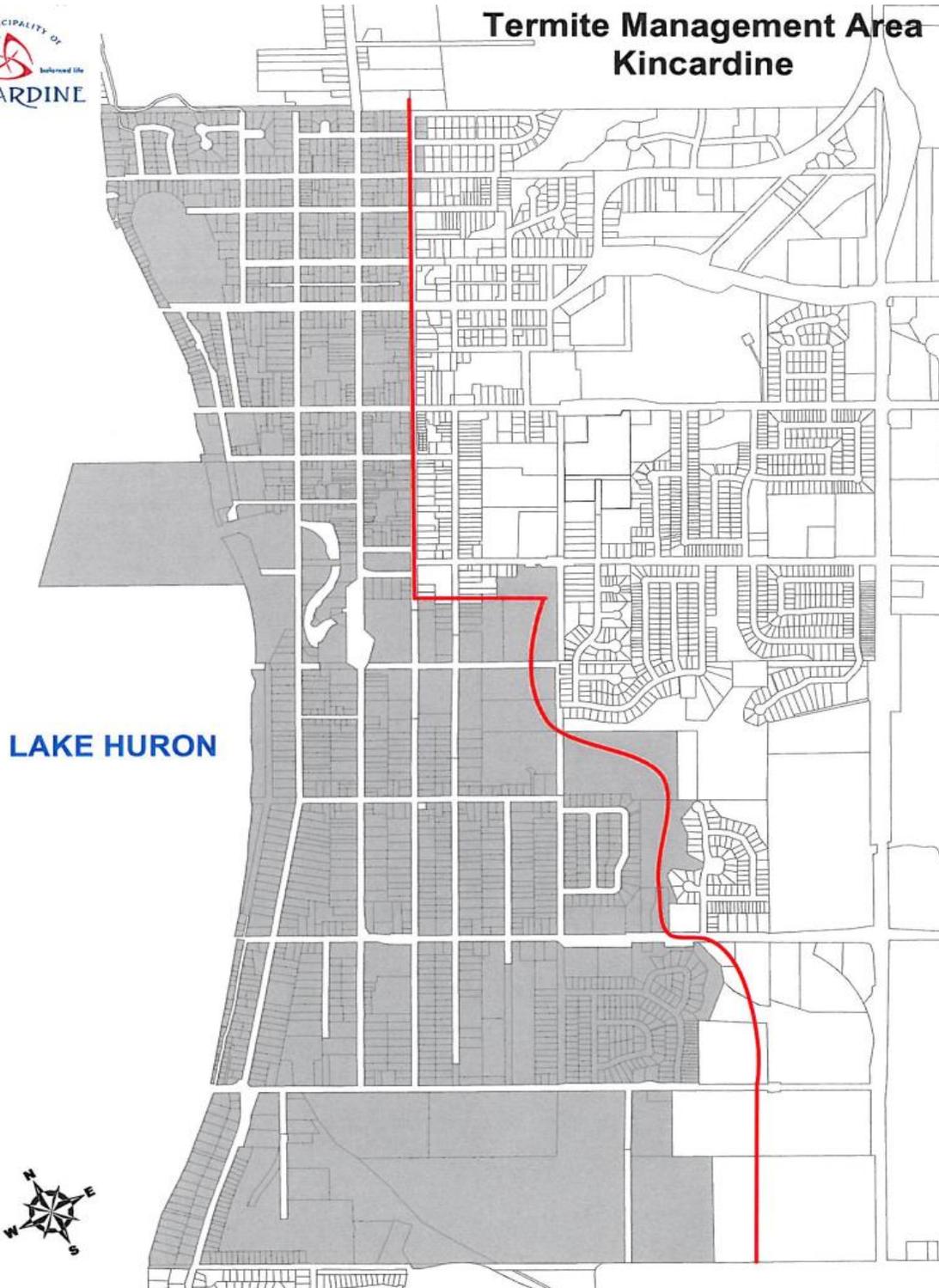
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Termite Zones

Town of Kincardine



Termite Management Area Kincardine



Termite Prevention

Upper Lorne Beach

