

Formosan Termite Tactics 101: 10 ways to win





**Tactic #1:
Know your enemy!**

The Formosan Termite (*Coptotermes formosanus*)

- ◉ Native to China, not Florida
- ◉ Came into our Southern ports during WWII on wood packing material



Formosan termite colonies

- Contain millions of individuals
- Colonies have caste systems:
 - › Worker (Damager)
 - › Soldier (Defender)
 - › King and Queen (Reproductives)
 - Mature queens can lay up to **3,000** eggs/day



Formosans are Subterranean Termites

- Live in and invade from the underground
- Hidden habits
- Can cover up to 1 acre

Formosans Need Moisture!

- Need **MOISTURE** to survive and thrive



Formosan Soldiers

- Up to 20% of the colony
 - › Native termite up to 2%
- Very aggressive
- Oval head with curved mandibles
 - › Secrete a white defensive chemical

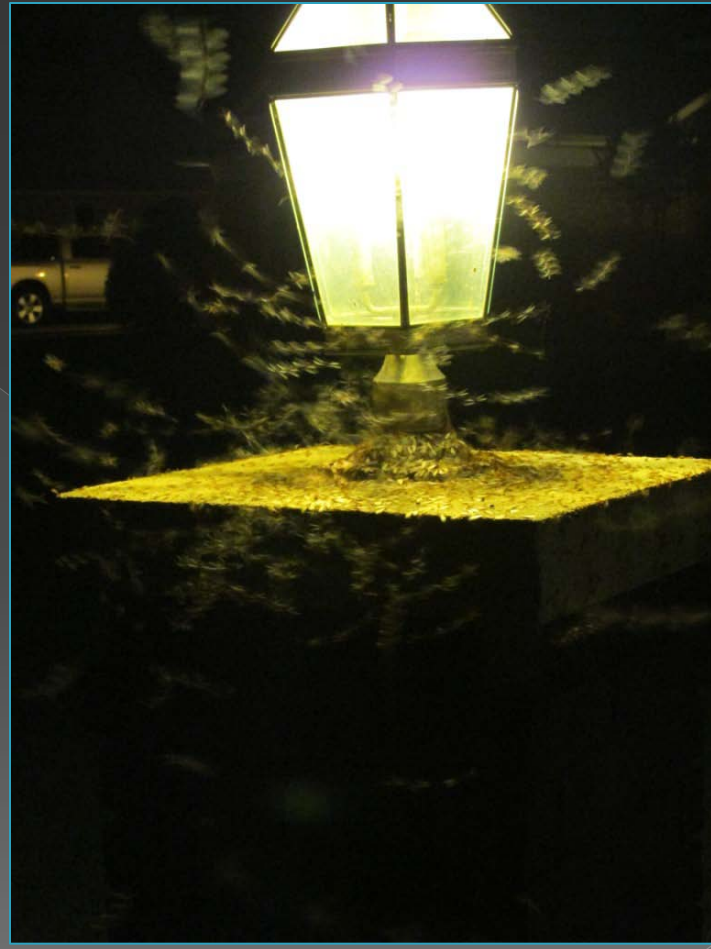


Swarms

- ◉ Winged termites swarm April to July
 - › Mother's Day is the typical start
- ◉ At dusk on warm (80°F), calm, humid nights
- ◉ Attracted to lights, **turn porch lights off or use a yellow bug light**



Swarms





**Tactic #2:
Know what your enemy is
capable of**



Formosan termite damage

- \$1 Billion a year in the US
- Will eat anything wood based
- Create mud tubes and carton nests
- Prefer **height** and meaty structural

Remember: Colonies in the **Millions** that need and thrive on **MOISTURE**

Formosan termite damage



Carton Nest

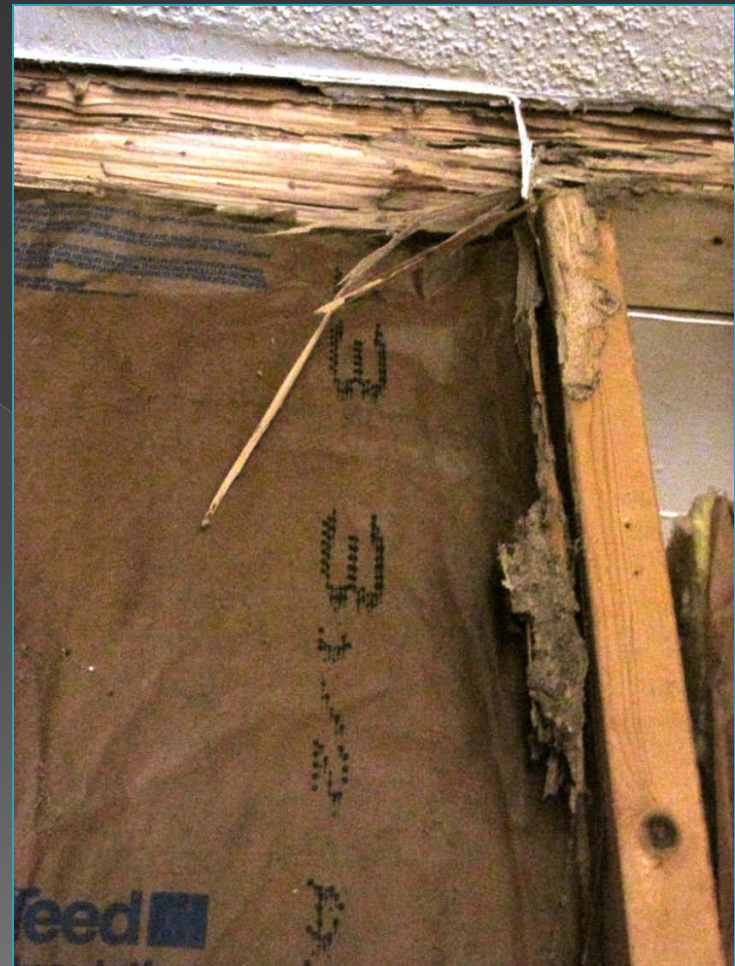
Mud tubes



Formosan termite damage



Formosan termite damage



Formosan termite damage



Formosan termite damage



Formosan termite damage



Formosan termite damage



Formosan termite damage





Tactic #3:

Team up with a licensed pest control company

Formosan termite protection

- Prevention is the BEST protection!
- New Construction treatment:
 - › Chemical barrier treatment and/or
 - › Borate wood treatment and/or
 - › Bait system

New Construction Treatments

- Chemical Pre-treatment
 - Before concrete slab poured
 - Horizontal surface barrier
 - Plumbing penetrations
- Chemical Post-treatment
 - Trenching/drilling
 - Exterior vertical barrier
 - After house/landscape complete



New Construction Treatments

Borate treatment

- Applied after ALL wood framing is complete, before insulation
- Borate salts
- Nontoxic to humans/animals
- Permanent barrier



Bait systems

- New or existing construction
- Installed around perimeter of home after completion
- Requires an ACTIVE baiting termite contract!




Formosan termite protection

- ◉ Existing Construction:
 - > Trenching/drilling chemical treatment to foundation
 - > Foam treatment in walls/voids
 - > Bait system

FL Law and Termites

- › Chapter 482: Pest Control
- › Chapter 5E-14: Pest Control Regulations
- › Licensing and enforcement by FDACS-AES:
 - Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 - Division of Agricultural Environmental Services





**Tactic #4:
Know your termite
contract coverage**



WDO Termite Contracts

- WDO=Wood Destroying Organism
- Formosan termites specifically
- Retreat, retreat/repair, spot treatment
- Structures covered, duration
- Hardwood flooring
- Aerial infestations

WDO Termite Contracts

- Costs of repair or demolition
- Contract transferrable
- Existing conducive conditions for termites:
 - Water leaks, wood to ground contact, foundation cracks, vegetation or firewood by foundation
- Have an attorney review
- New Rule in development





Tactic #5: Reduce moisture

Reduce Moisture

- Proper grading of home so water flows away
- Effective gutter and drainage systems
 - Extend 1 ft from home



Reduce Moisture

- Keep gutters clean and maintained



Reduce Moisture

- No sprinklers “watering” the home, direct spray away



Reduce Moisture

- Repair all leaks
 - › Especially check around windows
 - › Blown in/foam insulation can retain moisture



Reduce Moisture

- Adequate ventilation in crawl space





**Tactic #6:
Keep plant material away**

Keep plant material away

- Keep landscaping 6 inches to 1 ft from foundation



Keep plant material away

- Keep woodpiles as far away as possible



Keep plant material away

- Remove tree stumps/roots



Keep plant material away

- Trim tree limbs





Tactic #7:

**No wood or siding to ground
contact**

No wood/stucco to ground contact

- Keep stucco and exposed wood 6" from soil
 - Includes decks!



No wood/stucco to ground contact

- Stucco and exposed wood 6" from soil



Tactic #8: Repair cracks

Repair cracks

- ◎ Repair cracks and holes in foundation and all around exterior
 - > $1/64^{\text{th}}$ of an inch for termite to invade



Repair cracks

- ◉ Keep stucco repaired and sealed tight





Tactic #9:

Don't disturb your termite treatment

Don't disturb treatment

- Don't remove treated soil directly around the foundation



Don't disturb treatment

- For a borate treated home, make sure if new wood is added, it is ALL borate treated





**Tactic #10:
Take action now!**

Take action now!



Take action now!



Tactic summary:

- ① 1. Know your enemy
- ② 2. Know what your enemy can do
- ③ 3. Team up with Pest Control Company
- ④ 4. Know your contract coverage
- ⑤ 5. Reduce moisture
- ⑥ 6. Keep plant material away
- ⑦ 7. No wood/siding to soil contact
- ⑧ 8. Repair cracks
- ⑨ 9. Don't disturb your treatment
- ⑩ 10. Take action now!

Pest Control Complaints:

FDACS-AES: Agricultural Environmental Services

- Form: FDACS 13621
- Phone #: (850) 617-7996
- File online:
<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Environmental-Services/Consumer-Resources>

For more info:

- ◉ FDACS-AES Termite Help:
 - > <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Environmental-Services/Consumer-Resources/Consumer-Protection/Pest-Control/Florida-Termite-Help>
- ◉ University of Florida Featured Creatures:
 - > http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/formosan_termite.htm

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