

Australian Standard™

Termite management

**Part 2: In and around existing buildings
and structures—Guidelines**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee BD-074, Termites. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 29 December 2000 and published on 29 December 2000.

The following interests are represented on Committee BD-074:

Australian Building Codes Board
Australian Consumers Association
Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association
CSIRO Entomology
CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products
Cement and Concrete Association of Australia
Clay Brick and Paver Institute
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee BD-074, Termites, to supersede (in part) AS 3660—1993, *Protection of buildings from subterranean termites—Prevention, detection and treatment of infestation*.

The objective of this standard is to provide a guide for building owners and others involved in the management of subterranean termites within and around existing buildings and structures.

The revision of this Standard takes into account current best practice in the field of termite management for existing buildings and structures.

This Standard is the second part in a series of standards on termite management. Other parts in the series are as follows

AS

3660 Termite management

3660.1 Part 1: Termite management

3660.3 Part 3: Assessment criteria for termite management systems

Standards Australia draws attention to the fact that it is claimed that compliance with this Australian Standard may involve the use of patents concerning stainless steel mesh and graded stone termite barriers.

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NOTE: Future editions of this Standard will not include proprietary or patented systems. While reference will be made to the existence of such systems, each system manufacturer shall demonstrate compliance with the performance criteria of this Standard, where required.

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FOREWORD

More than 350 species of termites have been recorded in Australia, about 30 of which achieve economic importance as pests of timber-in-service. With the exception of the drywood termites, all species of economic importance are soil-dwelling (subterranean) and have similar habits. Several of them have a wide geographic distribution.

Subterranean termites may eat timber and timber products or any material containing cellulose, their principal food, and this could include the building contents such as furniture, printed materials, fabrics, clothing, footwear, packing cases and tools. Termites can also damage some non-cellulose materials, for example, soft metal, inferior concrete and plastics such as polyethylene piping, building sealants and rigid foam insulation.

Typically, they form nests in the soil, near ground level in a tree, stump, or other suitable piece of wood. Sometimes the nest takes the form of a conical or dome-shaped mound. A colony may persist for many years and, as it matures, have a population running into millions. Attack by subterranean termites originates from the nest. Wood or timber lying on or buried in the ground may be reached by underground foraging galleries but attack may occur well above ground level either inside the wood or by way of mud-walled shelter-tubes 'plastered' on the outside. Timber resting on an impenetrable substructure may be reached by means of these shelter-tubes or through independent, freestanding columns built by the termites. In rare cases, where a source of permanent moisture, e.g. leaking plumbing, is available to the termites within the building, subterranean termites can form a nest inside a building, without soil contact.

In rare instances timbers delivered to a property may contain small pockets of termites. However, these termites are highly unlikely to pose a hazard to the building, as they are the remnants of feeding parties of the main colony. Once isolated from the nest, the termites are unable to survive as the moisture content of the timber diminishes.

'Drywood termites' are economically important only in restricted coastal, tropical, subtropical and adjacent tableland areas of Australia. Unlike subterranean termites they do not construct galleries or tunnels connecting the infested timber with the soil but form their nest inside the wood upon which they feed and so may attack any piece of susceptible timber, regardless of its position in a building. The evidence of infestation by these species is the presence of dry granular faecal pellets, which may be stored in disused galleries or ejected through small openings in the surface of the wood. Barrier systems will not impede or discourage concealed entry by drywood termites. Similarly they will not cause subterranean termites to reveal their presence where the nest is established inside the building and has no contact with the soil.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard Termite management

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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard provides guidelines for the detection and management of subterranean termite ('termites') activity in and around existing buildings and structures. It provides information about both physical and chemical barriers, which impede termites from gaining concealed access to timber and other termite-susceptible materials in buildings and structures. Barriers may be used either singly, or in combination, to provide an integrated system for existing buildings.

The Standard also sets out the steps to be followed to determine the extent of termite infestation in existing buildings, the type of treatment to control or eradicate termites, the use of termite-resistant materials, and methods for managing the risk of reinfestation by termites. Details for the certification of a treatment are included.

This Standard is not intended for use when providing a pre-purchase inspection report for any timber pest.

NOTE: For pre-purchase pest reports, see AS 4349.3.

This Standard does not apply to the management of drywood termites.

1.2 APPLICATION

This Standard is intended for use where termites pose an economic risk to buildings and structures and where management of that risk is required. This risk is regarded as significant throughout Australia, except in the state of Tasmania where the risk is negligible.

1.3 NEW SYSTEMS AND MATERIALS

This Standard must not be interpreted as preventing the use of systems or materials that have been assessed in accordance with AS 3660.3, but are not specifically referred to herein.

1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
1604	Timber—Preservative-treated—Sawn and round
1720	Timber structures
1720.2	Part 2: Timber properties
2543	Nomenclature of Australian timbers
2870	Residential slabs and footings—Construction



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