

## **FIVE SIGNS THAT YOU HAVE TERMITES**

■ **Swarming** - Swarms are what tip most homeowners off to an infestation, says Mr INSPECTOR. “That’s probably the most visible indicator that you may have a termite problem.” Swarms usually happen in the spring AND late fall, when some of the termites take flight from the colony in an effort to establish a new colony. A homeowner with a termite problem will often find their bodies lying on sashes and below windows where the termites have tried to exit.

■ **Shelter Tubes** - Subterranean termites need moisture to live, and they need the protection of tiny spaces. So they build pencil-thick tunnels of mud and earth across exposed areas. To see if these tubes are active, break one off and see if it is rebuilt, says Susan Jones, associate professor of entomology at Ohio State University.

■ **Bugs** - Simply pull back mulch around suspicious areas of the house or rotting wood near the house and look for termites.

■ **Hollowed Wood** - Probe suspect wood with a knife or flat-blade screwdriver to see if it’s been hollowed, Jones says. Severely damaged wood may sound hollow when tapped.

■ **Dirt in Wood** - Also, homeowners sometimes get confused about what is water damage and what is termite damage, since water and termites are often related. The best way to differentiate termite damage from moisture damage is that termites bring bits of dirt up into the wood