

## In This Issue

- [PMU Focus](#)
- [Exterior Inspection](#)
- [Interior Inspection](#)
- ["Like us"](#)
- [Upcoming Training Opportunities](#)
- [Learn More From IFAS](#)

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## Online Training Available

<https://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/>

<https://eces.ifas.ufl.edu/>

## Additional Resources

University of Florida  
Extension Publications

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Pest Management in and  
Around Structures

## PMU Focus - Termite Inspections



Fig 1. Swarming eastern subterranean termites. Photo by L. Buss, University of Florida.

Termite swarming season is here! This means homeowner calls and inspections are about to increase. It is always good practice to review the basics of identification and inspection information, even for seasoned veterans. This month's focus will highlight some tips on conducting a termite inspection. Next month's newsletter will contain information on identifying damage in the absence of live termites.

## Exterior Inspection

The key to any good inspection is to take your time. When it comes to termite inspections the devil is in the details. You are looking for subtle signs of termite activity or water damage, which can take patience and a keen eye. Rushing through an inspection is where errors are made, and the details are missed. Depending on the nature of a termite call, many termite inspections begin on the exterior of the structure. There are many ways to conduct a *correct* termite inspection, but here are a few simple tips and guidelines that reinforce the basics.



Fig 2. Termite mud tubes at the foundation of a home. Photo by J. Castner, University of Florida.

- Make two (or more) passes around the structure. It is easy to get tunnel vision when looking down or up. Focus your attention during your first walk around the structure inspecting from head-height, down. On the second pass, inspect from head-height, up (Fig 2).



Fig 3. Exterior door frame creating a structural joint along the foundation of the structure. Photo by M. Bentley, University of Florida

- Termites seek moist environments, so signs of moisture intrusion in a structure can be your red flag to indicate areas that warrant further investigation. Common areas for water intrusion into a structure are where joints are made: This means where two materials come together (window frames, doorways, roof lines, siding joints, and the structures foundation) (Fig 3).

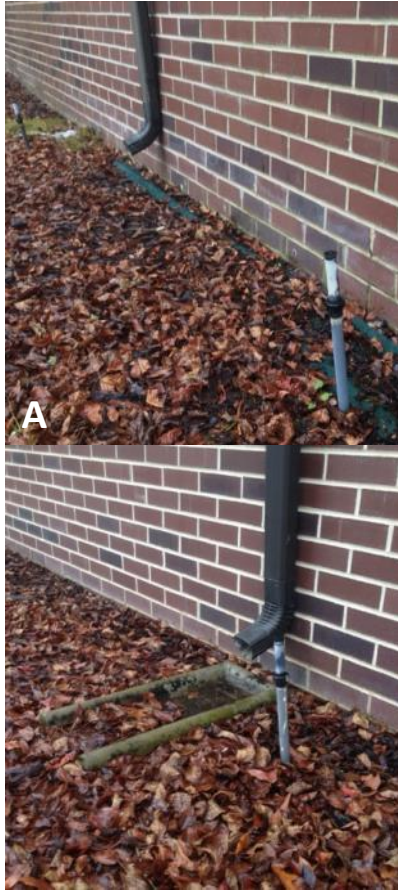


Fig 4. A: Gutter downspout without proper splashguard to direct water away from structure. Structural walls with hard-water residue indicating signs of overspray due to sprinklers B: Gutter with correct installation of splashguard . Photos by M. Bentley, University of Florida.

- Inspect around gutter downspouts and sprinkler heads close to the structure. When gutters are not directed away from the foundation, or sprinklers overspray regularly onto the structure, they become areas where moisture intrusion can occur (Fig 4A, B).



Fig 5. Stray cellulose left along the foundation of a structure. Photo by M. Bentley, University of Florida

- Areas along the foundation of a structure should be further investigated when stray cellulose is found. It is also recommended to remove this cellulose from the area if possible (Fig 5).

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## Interior Inspections

Interior termite inspections commonly focus on the points in the home where pipes and conduits enter a structure. This includes the bathrooms, laundry room, kitchen, and any other rooms that may contain water heaters, showers, or sinks. Since the majority of these locations are in the dark, a good flashlight and a small inspection mirror are a must!

- Mud tubes and water damage are what to watch for when inspecting water lines in kitchens, bathrooms, or utility rooms.



Fig 6. Termite damage to door frame. Photo Credit: [http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/formosan\\_termite.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/formosan_termite.htm)

- Baseboards, door frames, and trim that may have termite activity will often appear blistered or cracked. Dirt or mud can also be associated with these areas (Fig 6).
- Treat the interior inspection of the structure similar to an exterior inspection. Use the baseboards as a guide to inspect in a continuous path around the interior of the home, looking for signs of termite activity.



Fig 7. Termite mud tubes located behind a book case. Photo Credit: [http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/formosan\\_termite.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/formosan_termite.htm)

- Ensure that items such as book shelves and furniture are pulled away from the walls to allow for continual visibility along the baseboards and walls (Fig 7) or document those areas as inaccessible if you cannot move them.

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Want to hear short updates from us in between newsletters? “Like” us on Facebook and “follow” us on Twitter!

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Upcoming Training Opportunities:



If you plan on taking the [State Certified Operator examination](#) through PMU, please submit your applications by:  
Sept 8 for the Oct 17 PMU [State Exam](#) for Termite and WDO  
(Write "**PMU NOV WDO**" on the top line of the state application)  
Oct 1 for the Nov 7 PMU [State Exam](#) for GHP  
(Write "**PMU OCT GHP**" on the top line of the state application)

### **March Offering**

#### **[WDO Inspections and Form 13645 \(Only 5 slots left!\)](#)**

**Date:** Mar 13-14, 2014

**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504

**Registration fee:** \$220

Improperly completed 13645 forms are a leading cause of litigation for pest control. The housing market is coming back and a lot of real estate has been sitting without termite protection. Foundations recommended, but not required.

- Do an inspection at PMUs house for WDOs with Paul Mitola from DACS.
- Learn the proper determination of "live, damage and evidence" and how to use DACS 13645.
- Learn from industry attorney Mark Ruff about the legal ramifications of an incomplete WDOI, using case studies and a mock trial video.
- Review WDO biology and behavior.

[Register here](#)

### **April Offerings**

#### **[Foundations of General Household Pest Management](#)**

**Date:** April 2-4, 2014; Wed-Fri

**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504

**Registration fee:** \$375

Pest control matters. Cockroach allergen mitigation can be achieved with IPM. Class duration: 2.5 days.

- Study domestic and peridomestic cockroach species and how to control them as well as rodent, small fly, filth fly, fire ant and nuisance ant management.
- Review the labels of commonly used GHP products, practice pest inspections at PMU's house and develop treatment strategies focused on IPM.
- Do a vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul

Mitola from DACS.

[Register here](#)

### **Foundations of Turf Management**

**Date:** April 9-11, 2014

**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504

**Registration fee:** \$375

Learn about common turf varieties, turf diseases, IPM of turf pests, methods of sampling, equipment calibration, turf maintenance requirements and more!

[Register here](#)

### **Foundations of Termite Management**

April 23-25, 2014(FULL, CLOSED)

*If your company needs another course between now and September, please contact Faith ([foi@ufl.edu](mailto:foi@ufl.edu)). We will see if there is enough demand for one in June.*

Learn how termites exploit over 50 building construction elements and how to treat them in a hands-on environment in 2-days instead of 2 years.

- Practice doing a DACS vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul Mitola from DACS before a crisis occurs.
- Hear about the top 10 reasons technicians get in trouble and how to avoid them from Mark Ruff, industry attorney.
- Get more in-depth information on termite biology and behavior as well as product label navigation. Class duration: 2.5 days.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSES**

Click on links for course descriptions or go to <http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/courses>

#### **WDO category**

Sept 17-19, 2014, [Termite Foundations](#)

July 30, 2014, [Termite Basics](#). Anyone in sales, office management, or brand new to the industry, this is the course for you.

#### **GHP Category**

Feb 26-28, 2014, GHP Foundations, **FULL, CLOSED**. We added another of this "must have" course for implementers:

April 2-4, 2014, [GHP Foundations](#)

May 28-30 2014, [GHP Foundations](#)

July 31, 2014, [GHP Basics](#) . Anyone in sales, office management, or brand new to the industry, this is the course for you

### **L&O Category**

Please contact Dr. Eileen Buss ([eabuss@ufl.edu](mailto:eabuss@ufl.edu), (352) 273-3976) directly with questions concerning these courses.

May 14-16, 2014, [Foundations of Ornamentals Management](#) (**NEW!**)

Sept 24-26, 2014, [Turf Foundations](#), doing turf work? This is a must have course.

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## Learn more from IFAS



- UF/IFAS has Extension Offices in Florida's sixty-seven counties. We have twelve Research and Education Centers and Research and Demonstration (RDSs).
- If you need help a great place to go is your local County Extension Office. With offices located in every county it has never been easier to partner with the University and your local County Government office near you please visit: <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu>



