



## Common Timber Borer

### **Anobium borer – Anobium punctatum (furniture beetle)** Life cycle (1-3 years)

Commonly found in Baltic pine floors and cupboards and occasionally in radiata pine floorboards. Anobium borer does not attack hardwood timbers. The flight holes (1 – 2mm) resemble small nail holes which when sanded appear as squiggly lines on the surface. The larva makes the dust or frass that comes out of these holes; the frass appears grain like (when rubbed between your fingers it has a gritty feel). The frass is chewed wood fragments.

Anobium borer only attack softwood timbers and since the majority of structural timbers are hardwood, structural damage is limited.

Treatment options include contacting Exopest for advice on treating softwood timbers, replacing timbers with hardwood, increasing ventilation and reducing moisture and dampness in subfloor spaces. Treatments include surface application using Boracol 200H or Perigen 500 to effected timbers. Ideally both sides of the infested timber are treated for optimal control.

The borer life cycle is approx 3 years from egg, lava, pupa to adult. The adult Anobium borer only lives a few weeks and after emerging from its exit hole (flight hole) in the timber it quickly finds a mate, to breed and lays eggs. The longest stage of the borer life cycle is spent as a grub or larva in the effected timber and it is this that causes structural damage to the timber. The larvae stage is spent entirely in the wood and lasts not less than 2 years.



Anobium Borer Timber Damage

### **Lyctus borer – Lyctus brunneus (powder post beetle)** – Life cycle (1-3 years)

Lyctus borer is often found in the edge of timber framing, skirtings and architraves. The holes are pinhole size (very small) and the powder (frass) is very fine, almost like talcum powder, only a timber colour. This borer rarely attacks pines but is commonly found during renovations when framing is exposed, often by electrician when re wiring in the roof space, in timber tile battens when replacing roofs or lifting roof tiles, and in subfloor timbers such as bearers and floor joists when restumping. Exopest follows the CSIRO advice and does not recommend treatment for this borer, since the damage to timbers is generally decorative and non-structural. A tree consists of a centre core of wood known as heartwood; a thinner layer known as sapwood which is located, just beneath the bark. When timber is milled, up to 25% sapwood can be present within that timber and since 75% of the effected piece is heartwood, it remains structurally sound and is not considered necessary to treat.



Lyctus borer damage to floor joists

