

A NATIONAL STANDARD: CODE OF PRACTICE FOR TERMITE MANAGEMENT

11. INSPECTION AND DETECTION

Under this Code, written timber pest inspection reports are mandatory components of termite management in and around existing buildings.

Timber pest inspections should always be completed and reported on out prior to any termite treatments being undertaken. Inspections, can, however, be quoted on separately or as part of a total package.

Inspections and associated reports:

1. identify the presence or absence of termites and/or other timber pests or diseases (eg fungal or bacterial rot);
2. identify whether timber damage is due to termite attack or due to other pests or diseases;
3. if damage is termite related, identify the genus and species (if possible) involved;
4. assess the extent of and areas of activity, possible entry points and nests;
5. determine the most suitable course(s) of action, including treatment(s);
6. assess possible and likely limitations to recommended treatment(s);
7. identify risk factors that may influence treatment limitations
8. recommend further trade involvement (eg building remediation, carpentry) before or after treatment(s);
9. recommend on the need for and frequency of future inspections and/or follow-up treatments; and
10. provide clear guidelines for on-going maintenance of treated properties and treated areas.

11.1. STANDARD VISUAL TIMBER PEST INSPECTIONS

Standard visual timber pest inspections cover and include both initial and/or regular inspection of home, buildings and structures within the boundaries of an average sized building block (up to 1,000 square metres) or, with rural properties, all buildings and structures and the surrounding grounds within a 30 metre radius of targeted buildings and structures.

Inspections should be conducted at least annually and, often, more frequently, depending on:

- termite species involved or suspected;

- building construction type(s);
- the presence or absence of 'conductive conditions' (physical and/or environmental conditions which may favour termite activity and attack);
- geographical region; and/or
- history of termite related issues within or around the particular property.

Special note: standard visual termite inspections should not be confused with '**invasive**' inspections, which require potentially termite-affected timbers and materials to be physically removed or opened up.

Tools and equipment

A recommended tool and equipment kit for the conduct standard or visual inspections includes but is not limited to:

- a moisture meter;
- powerful torch;
- long handled probe or screwdriver;
- ladder (minimum 2.1m opening up to 3.6 m);
- sharp knife (for splinter test); and
- digital camera.

Optional but non-essential items include:

- a compass (to determine orientation of building so location of information can be accurately reported);
- a magnifying glass or hand lens (x 10 magnification);
- binoculars; and
- tweezers and specimen jar.

The results of standard visual termite inspections must be detailed in a written report including and covering, as a minimum:

- the detection or non-detection of termites;
- identification or otherwise of 'conductive conditions';
- all and any damage identified during inspection;