



Adam H. Putnam  
Commissioner

**State of Florida  
Department of Agriculture  
and  
Consumer Services**

**Alternative Methods of  
Treatment for Drywood  
Termites**

**A Guide for Residential Homeowners**

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Pest Control  
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The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bureau of Entomology and Pest control has been receiving telephone calls from consumers asking about alternative treatment methods for drywood termites.

On some occasions, consumers are reporting that company salesmen refer them to our office for endorsement of a particular method.

Chapter 5E-14.104, Florida Administrative Code, **prohibits**;  
(1) a licensee or its employee from claiming that inspections or treatments are required, authorized or endorsed by the Department, and  
(2) any reference made in any manner suggesting the approval, endorsement or recommendation by the Department.

For real estate transactions, the traditional method of control for drywood termites has been tent fumigation.

This process uses a fumigant, sulfuryl fluoride (Vikane®, Zythor®, Master Fume®) or methyl bromide (Brom-o-Gas®), in concentrations that may be hazardous to man, within an enclosed space to eliminate drywood termites from ALL areas within the enclosed tarp area (normally, the entire structure).

This method of treatment requires the evacuation of common or contiguous structures.

Frequently, condominiums and townhouses have difficulty in complying

with the evacuation requirements when residents do not cooperate.

There are alternative drywood termite control methods available for use in single family homes and multi-unit structures such as townhouses, condominium units, apartments and shopping centers.

Some of these treatments appear to be more convenient for consumers.

Alternative methods now being performed by licensed pest control companies include: the electric gun, freezing with liquid nitrogen (The Blizzard System®), heating (Clean-heat®, Heatwave®), and chemical drill and injection control with termiticides and wood preservatives.

All alternative methods have advantages and limitations which each pest control company should be willing to discuss with consumers.

Consumers should be aware that these alternative treatments are considered spot treatments since the entire structure is not treated regardless of the warranty terms offered.

This is not to imply that these alternative methods may be ineffective, but only to alert the consumer that these treatments cannot assure a complete treatment of all wood-destroying organisms infesting the wood within the entire structure.

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The regulations require a licensed pest control company to:

1) Provide a written contract describing the work to be done, warranty information, and other specific information as required by Section 5E-14.105, Florida Administrative Code.

2) Specify all areas in, on or under the structure to be treated. (Spot treatments included).

3) Not perform any work or accept payment until contract terms have been accepted or rejected by the consumer.

Remember, once you have accepted contract terms, the ability of the Department to assist you in the future is limited to those terms as specified.

It would be in your best interest to obtain an inspection, treatment proposal, and cost estimates from at least two or more licensed companies, and to compare their written proposals and contract terms.

There should be NO reason to rush into making a hasty decision. Wood-destroying organisms do not destroy your property overnight.

After reviewing this information, the consumer should be able to make an informed decision about which service is most appropriate for a specific situation.

Please review our other publications or contact this office if we can be of further assistance.