

# Focus on Pest Control

ADDRESSING OUR CUSTOMERS'  
TERMITE AND PEST CONTROL  
NEEDS SINCE 1985.

## TERMITE SWARMS

Usually, one of the first signs of a termite infestation is the appearance of swarmer (pictured above), which is in the spring for the species of termite found in Kansas. Swarms usually generate panic calls from homeowners who suddenly see what can be thousands of winged termites appearing in a living room or basement or even outside. Swarms are an indication that termites are present and that a healthy colony may be nearby. If you see mud tubes or see a swarm this spring, call our office to schedule an inspection. Keep some of the insects for our inspector to identify and we'll discuss a treatment plan that will provide ongoing protection for your home or business.

## SOME TERMITE TRIVIA

- ◆ The total weight of all termites on Earth is estimated to be much greater than the total weight of all humans on Earth.
- ◆ Several species of “higher” termites (e.g., *Macrotermes bellicosus*) raise their own fungi, inside their nest, as a food source.
- ◆ Termites communicate primarily via pheromones, but the majority of species also strike their heads against the sides of their nests, tunnel walls or even their own thorax. Variations in frequency and pattern of such “tapping” seem to constitute “messages” which seem to be understood by (at least elicit responses from) other colony members.
- ◆ One species of termite in Australia, *Amitermes meridionalis* Frogg, build large flat mounds up to 4 m. tall, called “compass” mounds, which are always oriented with narrow ends pointed north and south and the large flat sides facing east and west.
- ◆ Termites can eat holes in vinyl pool liners and even penetrate PVC pipes where those have been joined by certain solvents.

## COSTLY CRITTERS

The annual price tag associated with costs to treat subterranean termites and repair preventable damage exceeds \$2.5 billion annually in the United States alone. Termites are the most damaging structural pests, affecting over 600,000 homes. Most homeowners' insurance policies cover loss from fire, storm and earthquakes, but it is almost impossible to carry insurance against termite infestations.

Your termite control specialist, *ADVANCE* Termite & Pest Control, is your best bet to help avoid expensive termite damage. Termites, found in almost every state, Mexico and parts of Canada, eat wood, paper products, books, cardboard, and furniture and have been known to prey on cherished family belongings. Buildings with steel framing and masonry walls are targets too because of wood doors, window frames, support beams, cabinets or shelving inside them.

When termites target homes with slab construction, they are often difficult to detect until the damage becomes obvious.

## Travel Tips for Your Spring Trips

1. **Think Shade.** Park in the shade when possible. The sun will steal fuel from your gas tank through evaporating emissions, especially in older cars. Be sure you have a tight-fitting gas cap!
2. **Drive More Efficiently.** Rapidly accelerating and/or braking wastes gas and can lower your m.p.g. by 33% at highway speeds and by 5% in town. Speeding decreases gas mileage too. Use cruise control to maintain a steady speed.
3. **Combine Trips.** Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as long multipurpose trips covering the same distance when the engine is warm. With a bit of planning, you can avoid retracing your route and reduce the distance you travel as well.
4. **Choose a Fuel-Efficient Vehicle.** The most efficient vehicles get about 35 m.p.g.; “gas guzzlers” get less than 20. The difference between a car that gets 20 m.p.g. and one that gets 30 m.p.g. amounts to around \$800.00 annually for motorists averaging 15,000 miles of driving each year. That’s nearly \$4,000.00 of gas savings over five years!

It is not the variegated colors, the cheerful sounds, and the warm breezes which enliven us so much in spring; it is the quiet prophetic spirit of endless hope, a presentiment of many happy days, the anticipation of higher everlasting blossoms and fruits, and the secret sympathy with the world that is developing itself.—  
Martin Opitz



### MONEY FLOATING AWAY

Insulating your home is the best means of saving money month after month on utility bills. According to the Department of Energy, 30-45% of all energy wasted is lost through the roof and walls of a home. The fact is, when cellulose insulation is properly installed by a professional insulation contractor, no other energy improvement investment is recouped faster.

Call our office for an estimate for attic insulation and feel the difference!

This newsletter is intended to bring you information to make your life easier and more enjoyable. Please pass this Newsletter along to friends and relatives who might need our services.

If you have questions or comments, or if you would like to schedule an appointment for a termite inspection, lawn care, attic insulation or treatment for a bed bug infestation, please call our office at 620.662.3616 or 800.536.3614 or e-mail us at [advance@advancepest.com](mailto:advance@advancepest.com).

We sincerely appreciate your business!

# ADVANCE

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