AS 3660.2:2017

Termite management

Part 2: In and around existing buildings and structures

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- Australian Building Codes Board
- Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association
- Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia — Cement
- CHOICE
- Forest and Wood Products Australia
- Housing Industry Association
- Institute of Building Consultants
- Master Builders Australia
- Timber Preservers Association of Australia
- Total Environment Centre

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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Australian Standard®

Termite management

Part 2: In and around existing buildings and structures

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee BD-074, Termites, to supersede (in part) AS 3660.2—2000, *Termite management* Part 2: *In and around existing buildings and structures—Guidelines.*

The objective of this Standard is to provide a guide for building owners and others involved in the management of subterranean termites within and around existing buildings and structures.

The revision of this Standard takes into account current practice in the field of termite management for existing buildings and structures.

This Standard is part two in a series of standards on termite management. Other parts in the series are as follows:

AS	
3660	Termite management
3660.1	Part 1: New building work
3660.3	Part 3: Assessment criteria for termite management systems

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this Australian Standard may be subject to patent rights. Standards Australia will not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

NOTE: This Standard does not include specific details of proprietory or patented systems. While reference may be made to use the existence of such systems, each system manufacturer claiming conformance with this Standard needs to demonstrate conformance with AS 3660.3—2014.

The committee is currently reviewing this Standard to align the list of naturally termite-resistant timbers (see Paragraph B5) to AS 5604.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ are used in a Standard to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

Approximately 350 species of termites occur in Australia, about 30 of which achieve pest status. With the exception of a few dampwood and drywood termite species, all species of economic importance are soil-dwelling (subterranean) and have similar habits. Several have a wide geographic distribution.

Subterranean termites may eat timber and timber products or any material containing their principal food, cellulose, which may include the building contents such as furniture, printed materials, fabrics, clothing, footwear, packing cases and tools. Termites will also damage some non-cellulose materials, for example, plasterboard, inferior mortar, soft metals and plastics such as polyethylene piping, building sealants and rigid foam insulation.

Typically, termites form nests in the soil, near ground level in a tree, stump, or other suitable piece of wood. Sometimes the nest takes the form of a conical or dome-shaped above-ground mound. A colony may persist for many years and, as it matures, have a population running into millions. Attack by subterranean termites originates from the nest. Wood or timber lying on or buried in the ground may be reached by underground foraging galleries but attack may occur well above ground level either inside the wood or by way of mud-walled shelter-tubes 'plastered' on the outside. Timber resting on an impenetrable substructure may be reached by means of these shelter-tubes or through independent, freestanding columns built by the termites. In rare cases, where a source of permanent moisture, for example, leaking plumbing, is available to the termites within the building, subterranean termites can form a nest inside a building, without soil contact. Detection of such colonies may be delayed as these colonies will not necessarily make shelter tubes over inspection zones.

In rare instances timbers delivered to a property may contain small pockets of termites. However, these termites are highly unlikely to pose a hazard to the building, as they are the remnants of feeding parties of the main colony. Once isolated from the nest, the termites are unable to survive as the moisture content of the timber diminishes. The only exception to this is where an infested pole is re-installed into the ground of the new construction.

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard provides guidance for the detection and management of subterranean termite ('termites') activity in and around existing buildings and structures. It provides information about both physical and chemical termite management systems for use in and around, buildings and structures. Termite management systems may be used either singly, or in combination, to provide an integrated system for existing buildings.

The Standard also sets out the steps to be followed to determine the extent of termite infestation in existing buildings, the actions taken to manage termite risk by controlling the termites' colonies, the use of termite-resistant materials, and methods for managing the risk of reinfestation by termites. Details for the certification of a treatment are included.

This Standard is not intended for use when providing a pre-purchase inspection report for any timber pest. Pre-purchase inspection is covered by AS 4349.3.

This Standard does not apply to the management of drywood or dampwood termites.

C1.1 *Drywood termites are economically important only in restricted coastal, tropical, subtropical and adjacent tableland areas of Australia. Unlike subterranean termites they do not construct galleries or tunnels connecting the infested timber with the soil but form their nest inside the wood upon which they feed and also may attack any piece of susceptible timber, regardless of its position in a building. The evidence of infestation by these species is the presence of dry granular faecal pellets, which may be stored in disused galleries or ejected through small openings in the surface of the wood. The termite management systems described in AS 3660.1 cannot deter entry by drywood termites, as these may simply fly to reach susceptible timber and initiate attack. Ants and drywood termites deposit a pile of superficially similar frass in the same place each day (e.g. under a window frame). A simple test to tell the difference between frass from ants and drywood termites is to gather a bit of frass in the palm of a hand, and rub the frass with the fingers of the other hand. Frass from ants will break apart. Frass from drywood termites will remain gritty. If potential drywood termite frass is found, contact your state or territory authorities.*

Dampwood termites are of economic importance along the Eastern Seaboard of Australia in forested or mountainous areas. They occasionally damage buildings. Like drywood termites, dampwood termites do not normally tunnel to reach food. They live confined within or near damp and decaying timber and tend to locate suitable food by flying in and starting a new colony. The termite management systems described in AS 3660.1 are not intended to manage dampwood termite risk. The risk of infestation by dampwood termites is generally avoided by having susceptible timber out of ground contact and managing moisture to low levels so that decay is not a problem. Attacks by dampwood termites are most common in damp, older buildings with poor ventilation and susceptible timbers in or close to the ground.

1.2 APPLICATION

This Standard is intended for use where termites pose an economic risk to buildings and structures and where management of that risk is required. This risk is regarded as significant throughout Australia, except in the state of Tasmania where the risk is negligible.