

Some other Timber Pests

Over the last few weeks we have had a number of **surprise visitors** in the area – quite unwelcome ones at that. Borers!

Borer(s) is the broad label used to describe a number of different insects which lay their eggs in certain timbers. When these eggs hatch the resultant grubs eat the timber, ultimately developing into adult form; usually a beetle, moth or (in one case) a wasp-like insect.

Borer damage is often discovered during Timber Pest Inspections, however it is usually the Lyctus Borer - which cause only superficial damage. Additionally these pests are only generally active for the first 5-years after a home is built.

Recently I have been called to a number of homes with ongoing borer infestations, a rare event in Victoria where our lower temperatures tend to scare off these bugs. However certain homes can create a “micro-climate”, generating the warm temperatures (and other environmental conditions) that foster these insects.

The two main assailants are; Auger Beetle and Furniture Beetle. Both of which attack certain wood types and cause annoying superficial damage to decorative timbers.

Furniture Beetle is a particular worry. This pest, given the right conditions, can do incredible damage to a home and its furnishings.

What to watch out for;

- 1 - 2mm diameter “pin holes” that appear in timber surfaces like floor boards, architraves or furniture.
- Small piles of wood dust – which may be powdery or appear like fine sand.
- Introducing untreated timber or pre owned wooden products to the home (particularly timber antiques).



Despite the rash of recent sightings these sorts of infestations are rare. However if you discover any strange holes or odd dust piles a any experienced licensed Pest Controller should be able to put your mind at ease.

An example of *Furniture Beetle* damage.

Ray Lakeman – Manager, TermiteWatch.

