

- Ceiling of the house is not less than 2.4mtrs/8 ft from floor.
- All framing timbers to be painted by pink primer before nailing.
- Concrete building with wooden floor to have proper air ventilation and ceiling to have air ventilation.
- Painting is very important, it protects the timber and makes it last longer.
- Open windows and curtains in the day to allow light and air into the house.
- Concrete floor to be of proper standard
- Report any signs of termites activity and termites infestations to Termites Operations Command Centre or (BAF) Office .

Termite Nest Selection



Moisture / water puddles seen around compounds and poor piping and drainage system contributes to the survival of Asian Subterranean Termites.

Please BE AWARE!

All communities from Drasa to Saru including Lautoka City have been declared as biosecurity emergency areas under the Biosecurity Emergency Regulation 2010.

The Biosecurity Emergency (Termites) Regulation 2010 is currently in effect and prohibits removal of any wooden materials, plants and plant products, timber and building material, furniture; personal effects and soil from infested areas.

Offences carry a maximum penalty of \$40,000 fine for individuals and \$200,000 fines for corporate bodies.

Please co-operate with us
by not spreading termites
beyond infested areas and
immediately reporting any
signs of termites to:

**Termites Operations Command Centre;
Commissioner Western's Office; Lautoka**

Hotline: 6281553/6286198

Normal Office: 6665984 Fax: 6645045

Email: termitefj@gmail.com

OR

Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF)

Office:

Suva	Nadi	Lautoka	Savusavu
3312512	6725092	6665984	8850864

**Email: info@biosecurityfiji.com
www.biosecurityfiji.com**



OPERATION KADIVUKA



**Help us to contain, control and
manage termites in Fiji**

“OPERATION KADIVUKA”

Operation

Kadivuka is a biosecurity operation launched in 2010 to control and eradicate the Asian Subterranean termite infestation in Fiji. The operation involved about 150 personnel from various Government ministries and departments including the disciplined forces and officers from National Fire Authority (NFA). Operation Kadivuka consists of three phases. The first phase involved awareness and survey of infested area, second phase is containing the spread of termites through rehabilitation and treatment of infested houses and trees and the third phase involves control of termites through monitoring and surveillance of affected areas and awareness and training for communities on preventive measures to protect their homes from termite infestation.



Biosecurity officers rehabilitating Ahmadiyya Muslim Primary School, which was worst hit by termites



After Rehabilitation

Termites in Fiji

Fiji has fourteen species of termites which are *Cryptotermes brevis*, *Cryptotermes domesticus*, *Glyptotermes brevicornis*, *Glyptotermes taveuniensis*, *Incisitermes repandus*, *Procryptotermes sp.*, *Neotermes gnathoferrum*, *Neotermes papua*, *Neotermes samoanus*, *Coptotermes acinaciformis*, *Coptotermes gestroi*, *Prorhinotermes inopinatus*, *Nasutitermes sp.*, and *Nasutitermes olidus*.

Asian Subterranean Termite

The Asian Subterranean Termite (AST)-also known as *Coptotermes gestroi*- is a new species of termite found infesting the Lautoka City. AST is exotic to Fiji and has caused massive damages to houses, schools and vegetation in Lautoka amounting to millions of dollars. AST is the second most destructive subterranean termite in the world. Incursions have been recorded in countries in South East Asia, Hawaii and Florida where populations have established for more than 30 years and damage costs have amounted to millions and

billions of dollars.

Asian Subterranean termites build their nest underground. They socially organize themselves into three groups: reproductives, soldiers and workers.

Reproductives- lay eggs. Most colonies have one pair of primary reproductives; the king and the queen. A queen can live for about 20 years and lay 1,000 eggs a day. A colony can have about 60,000 to 1 million termites in it. Only the king and queen have eyes. The rest of the termites are blind and navigate using scent and moisture trails. Kings and queens are usually darker than the rest of the termites in the colony.

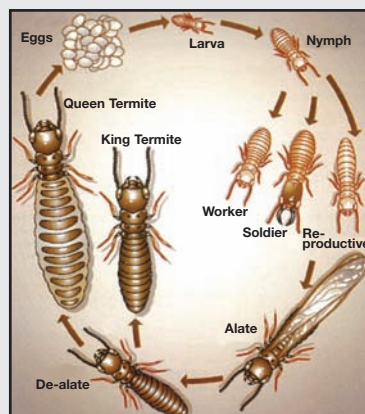
Soldiers- defend the nest from invaders, usually ants and termites from other colonies. The wide range of jaw types and large heads provide means that effectively block narrow termite tunnels against ant entry. A tunnel-blocking soldier can rebuff attacks from many ants. Soldiers' heads are often darker than their bodies. They can exude a white toxic fluid for defense purpose. They also produce a rattling sound, a mechanism used by soldier to warn off nest-mates by banging their head against the walls. You may hear the sound during a quiet night if your house is infested with this species.

Workers- are milky or cream color. They have smaller, saw-toothed mandibles, which allow them to take small bites of wood and carry building materials. As their name suggests they do most of the work in the colony. They dig tunnels, gather food and care for young. They also feed the king, queen and soldiers, who are unable to feed themselves. Workers and soldiers are sterile.

Habitat- termites like to live in cool, dark, damp and moist places.

Food- termites feed on cellulose found in wood, paper products, clothes and trees (mango, lemon, coconut and cassava etc).

How Termites Work: Life Cycle



Spread- termites spread to places with infested materials or fly around in swarms.

Flight- termites fly in large numbers in the afternoons, hundreds to thousands, and are attracted to light. They do not bite people.

Ways to detect termites in their home:

Below are some warning signs of termite presence:

- Termites swarming in and around the house, especially near sources of light after rain.
- Presence of mud shelters from ground to woodwork or on foundation walls.
- Sawdust-like “powder” near doors and windows.
- Shed wings left near doors and windows
- Tiny holes on wood surfaces and
- Paint that has started to bubble on wood surfaces.



Cracks provide termites access from soil into houses

What can you do to protect your home:

- If you discover a termite infested area, do not pour kerosene or spray insecticides but contact the Termites Operations Command Centre or the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) Office for help;
- Do not remove and transport any wooden materials, plants, furniture, personal belongings and soil from infested areas;
- Maintain hygiene and cleanliness around compounds and inside the houses. Allow fresh air and sunshine to flow freely. Inspect your homes, trees and compounds thoroughly;
- Water puddles must be drained away from homes;
- Drainage and piping systems need to be cleaned and maintained;
- Do not disturb and disrupt colonies of termites as they will disperse to other areas;
- Ensure that the timber used has been treated properly;
- Ensure that the wooden building floor is not less than 800mm/32inches from ground level.