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## Landscaping issues that can contribute to WDI's



When inspecting for wood-destroying insects (WDIs), it's important to identify conducive conditions at the site which include certain landscaping issues.

1. **Soil or Mulch Build up-** Excessive soil or mulch against brick walls or siding at the foundation provides a protected gateway for termites to enter a structure by bypassing the treated soil beneath.

2. **Raised foundation planters -**

Landscaping plant containers such as flower boxes, planter boxes and other fixed open planters are often built right up against the house, or are touching an element of construction that is part of the house. Planter boxes may be at grade (damp course level) or raised above it or sometimes they are simply three-sided boxes with no bottom and using the structure as the fourth side. Termites can move into the planter box from the ground below and then find their way into the structure undetected through direct wood/soil contact, through weep holes in brick, through cracks, or up under the siding. If not protected by flashing, membranes, or poured concrete, foundation planters can provide direct access for moisture, termites, and carpenter ants into a structure.

3. **Shrubs, Trees, and Vines touching walls-** Carpenter ants commonly invade homes by travelling up in trees and shrubs and crossing over to the house where branches are touching

with the wall.

4. **Dense Vegetation-** Think groundcover plants and other heavy vegetation at the foundation wall traps moisture next to the foundation and can provide termites and other pests with protected and hidden access to the house.

5. **Wood under and around the structure-** Form boards, grade stakes, wood debris, tree stumps and branches, and paper products in crawlspaces (sub floors), under porches, and near the foundation attract and support termite populations, and can sometimes provide direct entry to the structure. Other wood that can contribute to wood-infesting pests around the home includes the following:

- Firewood stored in the home, on the deck or patio, especially if against the foundation wall.
- Lumber stacked against foundation or inside crawlspace.
- Landscape timbers or railroad sleepers in contact with the foundation or other structural elements of the house.
- Wooden flower bed borders or fencing (like tiny pickets) that touches the structure.

The pest control operator always need to inform the customer to do a bit of environmental landscaping to clear any debris, soil or timber away from the outside walls as this will attract termites to the structure and allow them easy

**PLANT PEST & DISEASES**

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ACCREDITED AND ACCEPTED BY  
THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND  
FISHERIES FOR REGISTRATION  
AS A PEST CONTROL OPERATOR

AGRISETA & SAQA  
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FE07/001

the walls or the roof. Vines such as ivy growing on exterior walls also provide access for carpenter ants. Termites may also tube up shrubs and other plants and gain direct entry into a structure if the plants are in contact

access to start attacking the home.

To download a printable version of this newsletter—click [here](#).

Struggling to complete your pest control correspondence NQF level 4 course? Even if you have only completed 1 or 2 modules, why not contact us?

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