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Observer HOME IMPROVEMENT
Do-It-Yourself • Decorating • Remodeling

Page ★ 4-B-P, F, R, GC, N 6-B Wednesday, May 5, 1965

Now Is the Time To Beware of Termites

This is the mating season for termites—and they may be planning a honeymoon in your house.

You'll know if you see a swarm of flying ants buzzing about the place this spring. It's probably termites out for their nuptial flight.

Every spring young reproductive termites get the universal urge to start housekeeping on their own.

The romance usually begins after a warm spring rain. When the sun pops out, thousands of winter-weary termites pour out of underground nests into open daylight.

After short, wobbly flights of only a few yards, the tiny black insects pry off their wings and begin a frantic search for a mate. They must burrow into the ground within a few hours or be eaten by birds or other predators.

To the startled housewife, this yearly phenomenon looks like a mass invasion of flying ants. But, there's a big difference. Ants are relatively harmless while termites cause \$250,000,000 worth of property damage each year. Ants are, in fact, the termite's fiercest enemy.

Here's how you can tell the difference: termites have thick waists; ants have a wasplike waist. Each has two sets of wings, but the termite's wings are the same length, while ant wings are short and uneven.

And, unlike termites, ants do not pry off their wings after swarming. So if you see discarded wings inside or outside the house, you can be certain that a termite colony is nearby.

This doesn't mean they have infested your house, but you should call in an expert to investigate immediately.

"Swarmers are harmless," explains Frank H. Lyons, technical director of Termite, a nation termite control service. "Their only function is reproduction, thus perpetuating the life cycle. But for every swarmer there are about nine workers left behind in the colony."

The worker, which you'll seldom see, is pasty white, about 1/4-inch long, wingless and blind. He feeds the queen termite, tends the eggs and destroys houses.

The termite nest is usually located several feet outside the house foundation, or directly beneath it. In either case, it extends below the frost line, with numerous supply lines leading from the central chamber—which houses the queen—to the source of food above.

Day and night, at all times of the year, the workers scurry back and forth for food—any cellulose material from a tree stump to the pile, all or part of a house. They work inside the wood only and rarely come through the surface. Thus, they can attack a house for years without discovery.

"Other than swarming," says Lyons "the most obvious signs of termite infestation are the pencil-sized mud tunnels the insects build over foundation walls and piers."

These tunnels are actually supply routes that lead directly from the nest to wood in the house. Termites travel through them to avoid contact with the sunlight and open air which dries out their bodies.

In a way this is a break for the homeowner. He can prevent invasion by cutting off the supply lines with chemical treatment of the soil. Such treatments are usually performed by professional termite operators.

NEW TYPE Faucets Efficient

Single control faucets are probably best-known for the easy way they work—a flick of the wrist and you've got the right flow at the right temperature. Requiring the use of just one hand instead of two, they mean you don't have to adjust things down to make adjustments.

A mother with a baby in one arm and a bottle in the hand of the other can even operate the lever-type faucet with her elbow or forearm. So it's pretty-well agreed that for convenience, single control faucets can't be beat.

But there's another important advantage that you don't hear so much about. This advantage is that the new single-control faucets are virtually trouble-free. Several models for example, have only one moving part, and have no metal-on-metal contact.

These products are tested under thousands of hours of the most abusive treatment possible before being mass-produced for release to the public. They're proven leakproof and foolproof long before they're installed on your sink or lavatory.

And they're safe too. Chances of accidental scalding are almost eliminated because the position of the handle indicates at which temperature the water will flow before it is even turned on. Any member of the family, including small children, can operate them both safely and easily.

The ultra-modern appearance of single-control faucets gives any fixture the ultimate look of high-styled design. Not just a product of new-home installations, they are being used increasingly for remodeling projects.

In fact, 40 per cent of those sold are installed as replacements in older homes. For further details, including price, contact a qualified plumbing contractor.

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Decorating With Color

Color can work a wonderful transformation in any room—especially when you follow some of the basic rules that have been discovered about its use. Here are "Color Do's and Don'ts" to guide you:

DO USE LIGHT COLORS in a small room to create an impression of greater size.

DON'T USE TOO MUCH pattern, in any room. This can be distracting and tiring.

DO PUT EMPHASIS on warm reds and yellows in rooms that are windowless or face toward the northeast.

DON'T USE BRIGHT COLOR in large areas, as this will detract from the furnishings.

DO HAVE CONTINUING COLOR flow through the house, and use harmonious colors in rooms that adjoin.

DON'T USE TOO MANY cool blue hues in a northeast room or it will seem to be cooler.

DO MIX LIGHT AND DEEP colors in each room.

DON'T USE TOO MUCH red or yellow in a south-west room with large windows, or it will seem warmer.

DO PAINT THE CEILING of a room a deeper color than the walls, if it very high. This makes it appear lower.

DON'T PAINT GLARING architectural features, such as radiators, to contrast with their background. This will emphasize them.

DO REMEMBER COLORS are relative and must be seen together.

DON'T USE GLOSSY PAINTS on walls or ceilings of living areas, since such surface creates glare.

DO STUDY COLOR SWATCHES in both day and night light; colors often change under artificial light.

DON'T HAVE ALL SHINY or all rough-textured fabrics in one room—vary them for visual interest.

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