

Termite Troubles: Could Be Con Job

EAST LANSING Termites can cause terrific damage. And because people know so little about them, some "exterminators" are bilking their clients.

So, Don Cross, Michigan State University entomologist, tried to set the record straight by answering these questions:

Question: How much should a termite inspection for a typical one-family residence cost?

Answer: When a charge is made for the inspection, it will range between \$10 and \$25, depending on the distance traveled from the office by the pest control operator and whether or not the building has a crawl space.

Question: How can a customer tell whether the inspector is doing a superficial job?

Answer: In other words, are there some minimum steps that must be taken to do an adequate job?

Answer: To properly conduct a termite inspection, the inspector will utilize a bright flashlight, ice pick (or screwdriver) and other necessary sharp tools to pierce and observe the various wooden structures of the building. He will enter all crawl spaces (wherever physically possible) to make observations for termite signs. In addition, he will check door frames, stair casings, floor studs, wall joints and similar wooden structure by sounding. The time required for an inspection is variable but usually requires 1/2 to two hours.

Question: What is the Michigan Pest Control Operators Association doing to combat the practices of some inspectors who give a favorable report on termite-infested property in return for a special fee or bribe?

Answer: Training sessions are continuously being conducted in an effort to upgrade our standards. An example is the wood damaging insect seminar conducted at our recent winter conference. In addition, we are in favor of the recent legislation which requires that legitimate pest control operators be licensed. In addition, we are pleased to see that the license number of the inspector must now appear on all FHA and HUD termite inspection forms. In addition, many of our members are also members of the National Pest Control Operators Association. The national association is also continuously working to get rid of those few individuals which conduct dishonest practices which result in a "black eye" for the industry as a whole. We are also working with the state regulatory agency on licensing problems and cases of outright fraud which come to our attention.

Question: Is it possible for inspectors to convince a client that the premises are infested when they are not?

Oakland Drain Battle: Hamlin, Barry And Kuhn

FARMINGTON Delos Hamlin, "Mr. Oakland County," has decided against retiring from county government and will run for county drain commissioner. The post is currently held by William E. Richards, a Democrat who got it by appointment. Richards succeeded Daniel Barry, a Republican who was indicted by a grand jury for misuse of public funds.

HAMLIN WILL be in a three-way contest for the Republican nomination against Barry, who has been denounced by party leaders, and former State Sen. George Kuhn of West Bloomfield.

The announcement came as a surprise. Hamlin, 67, a City of Farmington resident, announced last January he would not seek re-election to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on which he had served for 30 years. He had missed a number of recent county board meetings and had been spending an increasing amount of time in semi-retirement in Florida.

Hamlin said his only purpose in running was to transfer the administration of the county department of public works, a streamlining move consistent with his reform views.

"I am not running for the job per se as a politician," Hamlin said, "but only for the purpose of a responsibility which I feel I just could not turn down - that being the mission under the supervision of the DPW."

On Monday, Oakland County Republican Chairman Sheldon Smith said the party would not support Barry's attempt at re-election. "We cannot, in good faith, ask the voters of Oakland County to return Daniel Barry to the office of drain commissioner," Smith said.

Hamlin's governmental Ants have distinctively served nine years as a city (feeler); termite antennae councilman, 10 as mayor and are not elbowed, but rather 30 on the county board, consisting of many small cluding a record 13 years as head. While there are many other differences between ants and termites, those HAMLIN SAID friends mentioned are easily seen by began pressuring him to seek the layman with the aid of a drain commissioner's small hand lens.



Paper that has become damp and then stuck to furniture (or was under a hot object) should not be scraped off. Soften by covering with olive oil. Allow it to soak and then rub off.

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Botsford Gets Trees, Bushes

Botsford School Student Council recently donated trees and bushes to decorate the school grounds. It is customary for the student council each year to present the school a gift.

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