

Daily Q&A: How can I tell if termites have invaded my home during swarming season?

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How can I tell if termites have invaded my home during swarming season?

To make sure your home doesn't become a buffet for bugs, Tampa termite lawyer Pete Cardillo offers the following tips on protecting your home from termites:

- *If you see lots of bugs flying inside or around your house, that may be a sign of a termite swarm. Keep in mind that flying ants are often mistaken for termites. A quick way to tell the difference is that termites have straight abdomens; ants have a narrow "waist" between segments.*
- *Look for sagging or bowing walls inside your house, which could be a sign of termite damage hidden behind the wall. Look for the small, transparent wings that termites shed.*
- *Small drinking-straw-width tubes of mud on the outside of walls also may be evidence of termite infestation.*
- *Wet or deteriorated wood, or curious dust around windowsills, can also be a telltale sign of termite activity.*

Question for the Consumer's Edge? Send it to ipenn@sptimes.com or twitter.com/consumers_edge.

Questions are answered only in this daily feature.