

On Lanzarote there are two other species of termites that can cause damage to buildings, although these live exclusively in dry wood, not underground.

It is important not to confuse them, as both the damage they cause and the treatments they require are different. Drywood termites can be relatively easy to identify because they produce faecal pellets that usually accumulate visibly under the affected wood. Additionally, winged termites can be observed in Summer, rather than Winter like *R. flavipes*.



Accumulation of faecal pellets indicates underground termites are not present.

### What is being done to control and eradicate this species on Lanzarote?

The main urgent measures in the plan implemented by the various Public Administrations to curb their expansion are:


- Control and eradication of known underground termite outbreaks.
- Search for new outbreaks.
- Management of wooden items affected.
- Public Information.

### How can you help?

Inspect your home and surroundings for signs of the presence of underground termites.

If you detect them on your property it is important not to throw away or move items such as wooden furniture, trees, pruning debris, pots with soil, etc., as this may contribute to the spread of this pest.

Please contact us through:

 [info.termitas@tragsa.es](mailto:info.termitas@tragsa.es)

  **610 541 874**

<https://www.infotermitastf.com/>



# INFORMATION ON **UNDERGROUND TERMITES**

(*Reticulitermes flavipes*)





## What are they?

Subterranean termites are social insects organized into colonies (termite mounds). They live in the soil where they build tunnels through which they move in search of their food, cellulose, which is a main ingredient of wood.

They build characteristic mud channels, which they use to move around above the ground in search of their food supply. These pathways are visible on walls and other surfaces.

## Where can we detect them?

Inside buildings or dwellings, they can affect wooden items, such as:

- Doors, windows, ceilings, and roofs
- Furniture and fittings
- Cardboard and paper.

Outdoors, they can affect gardens, crops and natural areas, where they feed on living or dead plants, or any woody debris.

In their search for food, termites may dig tunnels and damage plaster or other materials in walls and floors.



Diagram of a *Reticulitermes flavipes* colony showing a chamber in the soil where they live, with a network of channels through which they travel in search of food.

## How to detect them?

- Check corners and damp areas of buildings such as basements, cellars or sheds, as well as inside and behind cupboards and other furniture, where mud channels built by termites are visible.
- Check door and window frames, windows, ceilings and any wooden areas. Look for changes in colour, or sagging areas.
- Check landscaped areas for their channels, especially the bark of trees and shrubs, wood in contact with the ground, and plants that appear to be wilting or decaying without apparent cause.
- Look for them in winter (November-January), when reproductive individuals (dark-bodied, white-winged) emerge in large numbers to begin their nuptial (mating) flight.



Mud channels built by *Reticulitermes flavipes* to reach feeding areas.

Departure of winged termites prior to nuptial flight.



Appearance of *Reticulitermes flavipes* workers and soldiers. The soldiers have large mandibles (jaws) to defend their colony.



Appearance of reproductive *Reticulitermes flavipes* during mating period.



Mud channels built by *Reticulitermes flavipes* on a palm tree.

