

WILL THEY EAT IT?... PROBABLY!

Termites are known for their destructive, wood-based diets. Why do termites even eat wood in the first place? It's the cellulose – a common organic compound found in plant materials like cotton, paper and wood.

What else will they eat? See below, and check out “Will They Eat It?”, a video project from the National Pest Management Association.

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Books

In the same way that termites can destroy a home from the inside out, they can decimate a dictionary from A to Z while leaving the cover intact.

Fast Food

Whether it's the paper packaging or the cellulose-infused food, termites will make fast work of fast food if given the chance. The abundance of cellulose makes greasy burgers just as appetizing to termites as they are to humans.



Headphones

Think your gadgets are safe? Termites will chew through the outer fabric of headphones and the plastic coating on wires in search of any cellulose used in their construction. These “silent destroyers” can wreak havoc to any household, out of sight and out of earshot.



Paper Money

Hiding money around the house isn't the best way to save some cash. Paper money is rich in cellulose and termites will quickly blow through a roll of bills if given the chance. Termites can also take a big bite out of your wallet, causing \$5 billion in property damage in the U.S. each year.



Shoes

Termites will strip the cotton fabric from a canvas shoe – even down to the laces. Termites will seek out any item containing cellulose, not just wood. “Run” to a pest professional if you suspect a termite infestation!



Towels

The phrase “you are what you eat” certainly rings true when it comes to termites. After chewing through dyed cotton, termites may show the color of the dye they consumed through their light-colored bodies.



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