

## 14. Protection against termites

The expanded polystyrene itself is not a nutritional attraction for termites. However, the building industry recognizes that termites may burrow through the polystyrene to reach food. Therefore, builders in areas, which are known to suffer heavily from termites, must take necessary precautions to avoid the problem.

The best protection mechanism against termites is to eliminate wood within the structure. All exterior walls may be erected using Armopanel™ polystyrene sheets together with concrete. All interior walls could be erected using steel framing studs. All floor truss and roof truss can be erected with steel framing components or concrete.

### Other protection methods against termites

Due to the fact that wood is still widely used to partition interior walls, floor and roof, it is advised that you follow the sequence outlined below to protect your structure from termites:

- 1) Prior to commencing construction, treat the soil with appropriate chemicals where the walls and foundation are to be erected.
- 2) Use only pressure treated lumber in areas closest to the ground and in all other locations with direct contact with concrete.
- 3) Leave at least 6" clear distance between the soil and any untreated wood framing.
- 4) Do not leave the Armopanel™ formwork unprotected in areas below grade. Always cover the entire below grade surface with bituminous or rubberized waterproof material. Likewise, you should also seal covering joists with a bituminous type sealant. Afterwards, you should also protect all sealed, below grade surfaces with a fibreglass drainage mat to avoid damaging the waterproofing barrier during backfilling. The fibreglass mat facilitates moisture and water drainage and is not susceptible to termite attacks.
- 5) Also we advise you to make a gap to check the concrete, termite barrier, such as: TermiMesh in order to prevent termites from burrowing through the polystyrene in their attempts to reach cellulose and wood materials located inside the building in question.
- 6) Install an appropriate drainage system around the foundation or the basement.
- 7) Remove all stumps, wood debris and other construction waste from the construction site (especially prior to backfilling of the finished foundation or basement).
- 8) Seal all cracks, joints and openings in the concrete floor, walls etc. by means of roofing tar mastic.
- 9) During backfilling, the soil around the house should be treated to provide continuous treated soil barrier from the footing up to the finished grade.
- 10) Slope the finished grade install rain gutters to divert all water away from the building to minimize the amount of wet soil around the structure (wet soil is particularly attractive for termites).
- 11) Continue to treat the soil around the building for termites in accordance with the schedule recommended by company for pest treatments.
- 12) For more details, contact your local distributor.

