



UK OAK DOORS

How to prevent and treat

Woodworm

(and hide the evidence!)

Purchasing products from reputable sources, using quality wood, and reliable treatments, is the best preventative action to the introduction of wood pests into the home.

But whether by flying insects or the introduction of new furniture in the home, any modern house may inadvertently bring wood pests into the house, particularly if home designers prefer a more classic look with antique furniture. This guide offers advice to prevent or treat woodworm, the most common form of wood pest.

You can reduce the possibility of suffering woodworm by the following steps....

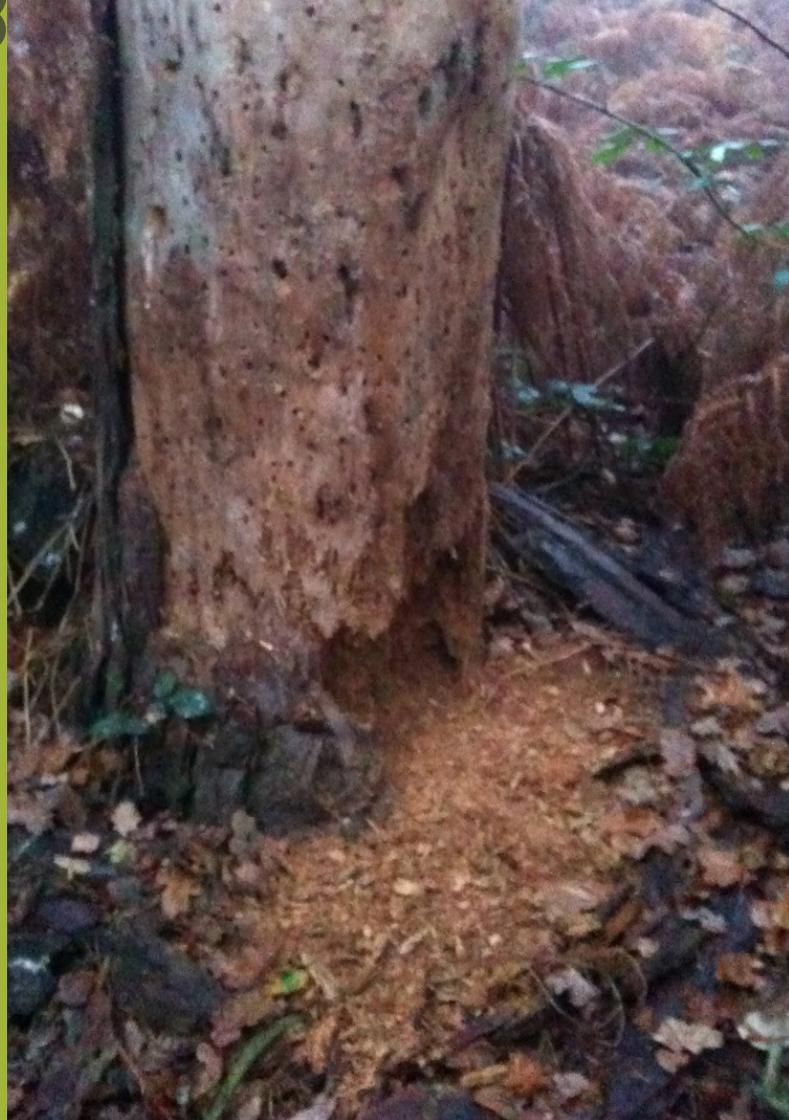
- » Applying varnish or preservative to exposed bare wood including the underside of chairs or other furniture. Pay special attention to furniture with plywood backing as this provides comfortable living for furniture beetle eggs.
- » Applying a preservative to exposed wood in areas such as floors and doors in attics (low traffic areas)
- » Checking for the presence of woodworm in old furniture, especially wicker items, chairs or plywood boxes, as these offer perfect places for the female to lay its eggs.

Treating Woodworm...

Woodworm is a serious issue that spreads throughout a home if untreated; it could be the difference between a mortgage company choosing to lend or not lend money to a prospective homebuyer.

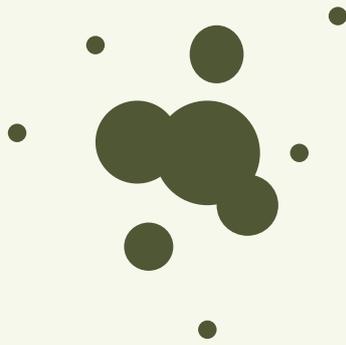
There is a choice between treating it yourself or employing a remedial treatment company. In some cases this decision will be made for you by a mortgage company: they will refuse to lend money for the purchase of a property until they have a guarantee from a professional treatment company that any woodworm has been killed off.

If you decide to treat woodworm yourself there are a number of products available to you once you have thoroughly checked the house for affected areas. Common places for infestations are roof timbers and floor timbers because they do not suffer from regular disturbances. In the case of floor timbers the upper side has regular use but the under side is perfect to harbour woodworm; though beetles may exit through the top surface. In the case of roof timbers any objects stored in the attic space should be removed as well as any insulating materials between the joists.



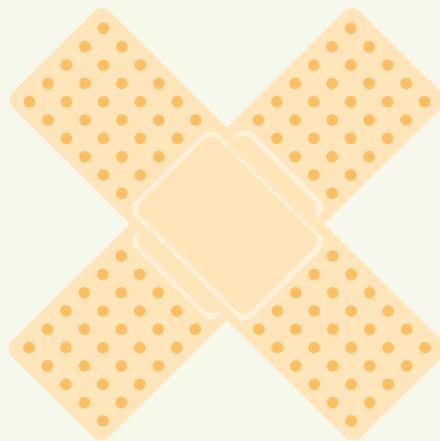
A tree with Woodworm.
Don't let this happen to your doors and furniture!

Badly affected areas of timber should be removed with a sharp Stanley knife, but if the woodworm has extensively damaged the timber then replacement rather than treatment is the only option. With both roof and floor timbers use a sprayer with a long lance to treat difficult to reach areas; hence reducing the need for step ladders in the attic or unnecessary removal of flooring. Wet affected areas with the treatment, taking care not to drip on to wiring and other electrics.



Minor outbreaks

In some cases the outbreak of woodworm can be caught early and the remedy is as simple as applying Woodworm Fluid; however this is only applicable when checks have been made that infestation has not spread. Woodworm fluid can be injected into 'exit holes' that should penetrate into tunnels. This will not reverse problems where larvae have spread but will prevent spread into treated areas again.



Disguising Woodworm Holes

In some cases the outbreak of woodworm can be caught early and the remedy is straightforward and simple with Woodworm Fluid. But this is only applicable when checks have been made that infestation has not spread. Woodworm fluid can be injected in to 'exit holes' that should penetrate into tunnels. This will not reverse problems where larvae have spread but will prevent spread into treated areas again.