

# BECOME A TERMITE TRACKER

## A Citizen Science Project to Protect our Communities

### Materials

- 1 Light source or solar powered light
- 10 Sticky cards, also called glue boards (they can be purchased from your local hardware store in packs of 10)
- 1 clipboard
- 1 zip tie or material to hang up the clipboard
- Clear plastic wrap
- Wire cage (optional)



Termite Trackers is a Citizen Science Project that lets the public participate in real-world scientific research. This project is designed for adults and youth or anyone interested in learning about science and the world around them. It is meant to help determine the range and scope of the invasive and destructive Formosan subterranean termite. Any location with a light source at night is potentially a good spot to track termites.

### Instructions

1. Before you remove the backing from the glue board, write the collection address and contact information on the back of all of the sticky cards.
2. Place one sticky card, sticky side up, on the clipboard.
3. Hang the clipboard and sticky trap in a location that has a bright light that attracts insects and stays on in the evenings, such as a flood light or curb light. You can also put it next to a solar light where there are no other competing light sources. We do not recommend hanging it next to your porch light, since your porch light should be off during termite swarm season.
4. Leave the sticky card there for 7 days and then remove and replace it with a fresh one. Don't forget the address and date on the back.
5. Wrap the used card in clear plastic wrap or place it in a plastic bag and place in the freezer.
6. Continue to replace your cards every seven days beginning in late April and ending in mid-June. The timing correlates to their swarm season, so don't be discouraged if you don't see termites your first week. A wire cage can be added around the sticky cards to prevent birds from becoming stuck to the card.



### Samples should be submitted to:

Termite Trackers  
UF/IFAS Extension - Duval County Office  
1010 N McDuff Ave  
Jacksonville, FL 32254

## Preserving Your Sticky Cards

It is best to wrap the sticky cards in clear plastic wrap or a clear plastic bag. Please don't use anything opaque like wax paper because we will not be able to take it off of the sticky card or see through it to identify the insects. Traps can be kept in the freezer until you are ready to mail or drop off at the office.

## Why is the Collection Period so Long?

Formosan subterranean termites traditionally swarm around Mother's Day. We ask that you have your traps out around May 1st and continue through approximately June 30th. This is the known swarm time for these termites and a longer collection period will help us to determine how heavy infestations are in an area and when they are swarming.

## After You Mail Your Samples:

Insects will be identified as they are mailed to our office. Data will be entered onto our website at <https://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/termite-tracker>. Collection addresses will be indicated by block, not by street address.

Once we receive your samples, we will mail you educational information about Formosan subterranean termites and don't forget to check the website to track your termites!



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Jacksonville, FL 32254  
eeeck@ufl.edu

## Don't Forget to Include:

Your name and contact information  
Collection address  
Date of collection

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