

## European House Borer

### Use and Effects on Untreated Softwoods

#### European House Borer

The European House Borer is a destructive pest of seasoned coniferous timber, including pine, fir and spruce. If allowed to become established it can cause major structural damage to buildings. The European House Borer was detected in the Shire of Mundaring in 2006 however, more recent infestations have been found in other areas. More information, including a picture of the European House Borer, can be found at the following website: <http://www.ehb.wa.gov.au>

#### Areas with Confirmed Infestations:

1. Shire of Mundaring
2. Suburbs of Ellenbrook, Bullsbrook, Gidgegannup and Gngangara pine plantation in the City of Swan
3. Suburbs of Walliston and Lesmurdie in the Shire of Kalamunda
4. Suburb of Southern River in the City of Gosnells
5. Suburbs of Oldbury and Serpentine in the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
6. Suburb of Murdoch in the City of Melville
7. Gngangara pine plantation in the City of Wanneroo

#### Precautions for New Buildings

It is recommended that building owners, designers and builders constructing buildings in or near infested locations should not use untreated pine or other susceptible timbers until the extent of the infestation has been determined and a decision is made on whether eradication is possible. In particular, untreated pine would not be used in critical structural members including roof, ceiling, floor, stairway or ramp and wall framing members, or in areas such as roof spaces where regular inspection is not practical.

It is possible that more infested sites will be reported or found as part of the survey to determine the extent of the infestation and its control. If widespread infestations are found, it may be impractical to eradicate the borer and formal measures may be needed to restrict the structural use of untreated softwoods in some areas.

#### Precautions for Existing Buildings

It is recommended that building owners in or near infested locations, should check for the presence of untreated pine or other susceptible species and regularly inspect the timber for evidence of infestation, such as exit holes and powdery residue. It is particularly important to check roof spaces and structural members. If any indication of borer damage is found, building owners should contact the EHB Response Hotline (WA Government) — free call 1800 084 881.

At this stage there is no evidence that the European House Borer is established in other parts of the metropolitan area or other parts of the State. However building owners should make sure regular maintenance inspections or inspections by pest controllers include inspection of roof spaces and structural members for evidence of infestation. If any indication of borer damage is found, building owners should contact the EHB Response Hotline on free call 1800 084 881.

If European House Borer is detected, fumigation of the building or other treatments may be necessary. Fumigation will destroy existing infestations, but will not provide protection against future infestation.

#### Information on Treatment Options

Treatments are all registered with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Registrations can change, and new products are registered, so we advise you to check the APVMA website [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au) for the latest registered treatments.