



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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# **GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR STRUCTURAL PEST INSPECTORS**

## **Composition Siding Reporting Requirements**

Composition siding materials are commonly encountered during the course of structural pest inspections. These materials may consist of varying amounts of different products, including wood, plastic, or concrete. Excessive moisture conditions can cause wood destroying organisms such as rot fungus, moisture ants, and dampwood termites to infest or otherwise damage many types of siding, including composition, along with damage to adjacent structural materials.

Excess moisture in siding materials can lead to deterioration of the siding that then acts as a conducive condition to promote infestations by wood destroying organisms.

Structural Pest Inspectors have the option of excluding siding materials from their written reports. However, if the siding is not excluded, then inspectors must thoroughly examine it for wood destroying organisms, damage, or conducive conditions and make their findings known in the report.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture does not expect structural pest inspectors to identify damage hidden beneath any siding materials. However, inspectors are required to thoroughly examine and report on all wood destroying organisms and conducive conditions readily visible on or adjacent to siding materials.

Questions on the licensing and reporting requirements for Structural Pest Inspectors can be directed to the Department at 877.301.4555.

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