

Considerations and comparisons of termite monitoring and baiting systems

	TermiteTrap DIY Colony Killing System	Green Pest DIY Baiting system	Other DIY Baiting systems	Professional Operator monitoring systems
Monitors	The TermiteTrap has a patented clear cap and signal hole for easy homeowner monitoring; stands in the garden/soil; holds large numbers of termites; cartons of 6 traps (6 is enough for 500-600sqm blocks) easy installation	Signal window for homeowner monitoring; wedge shaped wooden block set flush in lawns/gardens where it might be easily covered and hard to find; (sold in 6 packs) easy installation	Some are small and treating is problematic; some are large with connecting underground tubes but which are very hard to install in established gardens with roots; have to be opened to check	Most are set in the soil with the top at ground level; They have to be opened with a tool by the operator on a regular visiting schedule to check; they can fill with water and they can be hard to find when covered.
Bait	Colony Killer Bait is for unrestricted sale to homeowners in cartons of 10 feeder tubs; safe for humans, pets and wildlife; taken by worker termites back to the colony wherever it is. Effective against the major species that do 99% of the damage to Australian homes. Bait can also be used to treat live termites found in any structural timbers	Bait is not sold to other than licensed operators who will charge to call out plus cost of baiting each monitor. Using Colony Killer Bait is problematic because the wooden block is flush with soil and small.	Bait is not sold to other than licensed operators who will charge to call out plus cost of baiting each monitor. Using Colony Killer Bait is possible if the monitor has enough space.	Bait is not sold; licensed operators charge to call for monitoring plus cost of baiting each monitor. Using Colony Killer Bait is possible if the monitor has enough space and not against your contract/agreement.
Initial cost	TermiteTraps are \$220 for 6 traps Colony Killer Termite Bait is \$275 for 10 x 90g feeder tubs (enough to kill a large colony or a couple of small colonies). No need to buy Bait until live termites are discovered.	Monitors are sold in lots of 6 for \$165. Treatment when needed is about \$90-\$150 a visit plus \$33 for each monitor treated.	Various prices based on size and complexity of the monitors.	Cost of installation is around \$2000 for a suburban home block. Ensure you understand who owns the monitors and the ongoing annual cost of inspection and likely cost of treatment when/if termites are found.
Expected life	TermiteTraps are UV protected polypropylene...10+ years expected. The internal cardboard can be replaced with any cardboard carton material after treatment any number of times. Un-opened Bait will last many years.	The wooden blocks naturally decay in soil but should last 3-5 years if not attacked and eaten by termites	The large PVC monitors will last many years and can be recharged with new wood/cardboard. The smaller, wooden/fibre versions decay in soil at varying rates.	Professional monitors made of plastic will last 10+ years. Ensure the service includes renewal of wooden components after treatment or when decayed.
Expected success	They all work! The baiting chemicals are registered by the APVMA in Canberra to do the job as claimed in the situations specified. The only weakness of monitoring is that you can't force termites to find the monitors but once they do, bait can be added without much disturbance so that the workers can transfer the chemical back to the colony. Looking at the 'big picture,' 95+% of colonies are outside the house footprint and monitors are likely to intercept foraging termites before they find a way into structures. To cover the instances where termites are already in a building (and not yet discovered) or in the few situations where they find a way in without signaling their presence in a monitor, you should inspect your home and other structures at least once a year...twice is better. Such inspections should discover termite activity before significant and costly damage occurs.			