

Termites love a modern life



TERMITES, livestock and rice paddies are among the world's biggest emitters of methane – a substance that David Cloake from Fumapest Pest Control says is 10 times worse than chlorofluorocarbons as an ozone-depleting substance.

Mr Cloake said that, on the other hand, termites are the world's best recyclers of fallen trees – a very important part of the nitrogen cycle.

"Termites are also a hot topic of study by western government agencies trying to find a renewable energy source," Mr Cloake said.

"Termite guts take indigestible cellulose, which makes up the bulk of all plant material grown on earth, and convert it to ethanol, which even today is a versatile and popular fuel.

"More than 250 million years of evolution have produced a highly efficient factory for turning cellulose into ethanol, unlike anything that humans have yet designed.

"Ethanol, a chemical fuel that would release no more carbon than it took to produce, could be an ideal

carbon-neutral solution for the medium-to-long term."

Mr Cloake said that termites in their natural environment are controlled by the availability of food, weather, soil type and predators, such as echidnas, numbats and a range of birds and reptiles.

"But in modern built-up suburban areas, timber framed buildings, landscaping, watering systems and concrete on ground flooring, make a perfect protected "artificial" environment for rapid termite colony development.

"In the past 40 years Fumapest has witnessed increased termite activity in homes in the Hunter Valley region as more homes are built using softwood timbers (which termites readily devour) on concrete slab on-ground flooring.

"Termites love to build their colony nest under concrete on-ground flooring as it acts as a perfect humicrib for temperature control and protection from predators. There could be more than one million termites in a well-established termite colony."

HUNGRY: Recent building techniques suit the termites' lifestyle.

For anyone considering building a home, Fumapest recommends using steel frames or concrete walls and having the soil immediately around the external perimeter of the building treated with Termidor liquid soil treatment.

"Fumapest has developed their EcoSafe Termite Bait system, with specially designed timber boxes being placed around the building and near any termite activity found.

"The minute amount of termite bait used is less toxic to humans and pets than common salt.

"Termites consume the bait and regurgitate it with partly digested food in order to feed the queen and other termites in the colony. The termite bait usually eliminates the entire colony within several weeks."



cmarecycling

Your Scrap Metal Dealer

We purchase:
car bodies, truck bodies, farm equipment,
mining equipment, copper, brass, aluminium,
stainless steel, lead batteries and more.

Industrial bins supplied



509 Tomago Road, Tomago - Phone **4964 9833**
30 Aruma Place, Cardiff - Phone **4956 8222**
Web: www.cmacorp.net

Get FREE! Electricity Solar Power your home today!

- Specialists in Remote Area Power Supply
- We come to your Home, Business or Property
- Turn-key Solution, we supply, install & handle all compliance paperwork
- Providing renewable energy solutions since 1999
- Regular Information evenings - Call 1300 786 769 for latest schedule

Australia's
No.1
Provider of Grid
Connect Solar!

Generate
your own
Electricity
TODAY!

Regional
Advisors
NOW!
in this
Area

Call us
For This
Months
Specials

Call Today! for a FREE Information Pack
1300 SUN POWER
1300 786 769




ADELAIDE - SYDNEY - MELBOURNE - BRISBANE - PERTH


www.solarshop.com.au

Proudly endorsed by **PLANET ARK**

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international non profit organisation founded in 1993 to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management to the world's forests - supported by the WWF, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the Woodland Trust.




"it's about protecting our forests"




The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification NCP Printing Group has obtained has only been achieved after the company successfully underwent a vigorous audit to ensure compliance with FSC chain-of-custody standards.

"It does not cost any more to help our environment at NCP Printing."

For further information about printing on FSC papers contact:



17 Arnott Street Newcastle West NSW 2302
Tel: 02 4926 1300 Fax: 02 4926 5557
Email: sales@ncp.com.au Web: www.ncp.com.au



The mark of responsible forestry