



For immediate release:

## **As Termites Live the Good Life in Florida, Homeowners Foot the Bill**

*-- More than Two Billion Spent Annually Fighting Termites --*

ORLANDO, Fla. (Oct. 29, 2021) – Florida life agrees with termites. In a recent ranking\* of the top 50 Termite Cities in the U.S., six Florida cities made the list with four ranked in the Top 10. Miami took the number one overall spot followed by Tampa (#3), West Palm Beach (#6), Orlando (#9), Ft. Myers (#32), and Jacksonville (#36).

With such a high population of termites living in Florida the potential for home damage is also high. Every year Florida and U.S. property owners spend more than two billion dollars fighting termite infestations. \*\*

“Termites are one of the largest destroyers of residential property,” said Matt Sitter, president of the Florida Concrete & Products Association. “Fortunately, termites are largely preventable if homeowners take the necessary precautions; precautions that can even start during the homebuying process.”

The best step in prevention is for homeowners to always be on the alert for termites. Termites rarely emerge from the soil, mud tubes, or food sources through which they are tunneling so most people are not aware they have termites until they see a swarm. Once sighted, homeowners next need to ensure they have properly identified the insects as termites. The most common termites found in Florida are the subterranean, dampwood and drywood species. However, many ants can be easily confused with termites because they look very similar and tend to swarm at the same time. The way to tell the difference is to observe the wings and antennae.

- Ants: the front wings are longer than the hind wings; antennae are bent at a ninety-degree angle.
- Termites: the wings are roughly equal in length; antennae are straight but may droop.

If it is a termite infestation, homeowners should contact a professional pest control company. For homebuyers, they can, for the most part, prevent termites by building with concrete block construction since the pests can neither eat nor tunnel through the material.

Homeowners and buyers can visit [www.BlockStrong.com](http://www.BlockStrong.com) to take advantage of the site’s termite location map to see where various species of termites are located, and which ones are the most dangerous to a home.



For more media information, contact Greg Smith, Public Relations Director, Bright Rain Collaborative at 407.440.3017 or [greg@brightraincollaborative.com](mailto:greg@brightraincollaborative.com).

Sources: \*Orkin; \*\*Environmental Protection Agency

### **About Block Strong**

Block Strong is a partnership between Florida Concrete & Products Association, Inc. and Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council, Inc. The awareness program's primary mission is to help consumers, construction professionals and designers understand the vital link between quality building materials and the health and safety of those people living in the homes and structures that they design and build. Block Strong also serves as an information source for aiding prospective homebuyers as they go through the various steps of the home-buying journey. To learn more about the benefits of concrete block visit [www.BlockStrong.com](http://www.BlockStrong.com).