A termite problem rarely shows up all at once. It's a series of soft spots, hairline cracks, hollow-sounding trim, and doors that start sticking after a rainy week. By the time the signs are obvious, most homeowners are thinking about two things: how bad is it, and how long will it take to make the house sound again. The good news is that termite damage repair follows a predictable path. The pace shifts with the extent of the damage, but the sequence is steady, and that makes planning possible.

I have walked more crawlspaces than I can count, scooting past old HVAC duct, tapping at sill plates with a screwdriver, and following the mud tubes like a subway map. What spooks people most is the word structural. When you hear termite structural repair, your mind goes straight to worst case. But homes are resilient, and most repairs, even structural ones, are measured in weeks, not months. The trick is setting a realistic timeline from day one, then sticking to the order of operations so you don't undo work you just paid for.

The timeline at a glance

- Assessment and treatment - 1 to 2 weeks, including inspection, moisture checks, and a treatment plan that fits the species and site.
- Stabilization and planning - 1 to 3 weeks for temporary shoring, engineering if needed, permits, and material ordering.
- Structural carpentry - 1 to 4 weeks depending on scope, from termite sill plate repair and floor joist sistering to termite beam repair and subfloor replacement.
- Envelope and interiors - 1 to 3 weeks for termite wall repair, termite drywall repair after termite treatment, trim, paint, and flooring.
- Final checks and prevention - 1 week for punch list, clearances, warranty documentation, and a prevention plan.

That's the skeleton schedule for most houses. A cottage with limited termite wood repair might be done inside three weeks. A large home with significant termite framing repair that touches plumbing or electrical can stretch to two months. Below, I will walk through what happens in each phase, what affects the timing, and how to keep your job moving.

The first 48 hours: safety, stabilization, and scope

If you've just confirmed active termites or discovered suspect wood during a renovation, the first step is to make sure the structure is safe. Not every termite issue is a safety risk, but it's not something to guess at. A licensed contractor or an experienced inspector should verify bearing conditions in obvious load paths - under entry doors, along exterior walls, beneath stair landings, under kitchens where heavy stone counters sit.

When I'm called to a house with visible termite tubes and soft plates, I start with a few quick checks. I probe sill plates at corners, at every 6 feet along walls, and at beam pockets. I look for deflection in floors that changes over a short span. If anything feels spongy under a major load point, we install temporary shoring. Simple pipe shores or built-up wood posts on concrete pads can stabilize a sagging beam in an afternoon. This buy-in of a few hundred dollars preserves alignment while the longer plan comes together.

At the same time, you do not want to open up large sections of wall or floor before pest treatment. Disturbing an active colony can scatter it into adjacent cavities. The better approach is focused exploratory openings that allow you and the pest pro to see, then a coordinated plan for treatment and repairs.

Week one: inspection and treatment come first

Termite repair services should not start with saws and pry bars. They start with identification and containment. A licensed pest control company will determine the species and extent of activity, then choose a method that fits. Subterranean termites in most regions respond well to perimeter soil treatments or bait stations. Drywood termites often require localized wood injections or tenting, depending on spread. In a damp crawlspace, moisture conditions drive the decision too.

The actual treatment can take a day to several days. Soil trenching around a foundation and drilling through driveways or patios for barrier treatments tends to be a one to two day job. Bait systems are quick to install, but they are a long game. If localized drywood activity is found in a porch beam, a technician can inject and foam it in a morning. Fumigation, when needed, introduces a longer window - usually 3 days out of the home plus a lead time of 1 to 2 weeks for scheduling and clear weather.

During this week, a contractor experienced in repair termite damage to house should perform a detailed structural assessment that complements the pest findings. Expect measurements, photos, moisture readings, and notes that map termite wood repair areas room by room. Clear scope at this stage prevents change orders later.

Permits and engineering: the invisible days that matter

Homeowners often underestimate how much calendar time lives in paperwork. If termite damage restoration touches structural members, local building departments usually require a permit. For straightforward termite floor joist repair where you are sistering standard joists and replacing subfloor, a simple repair permit can be issued inside a week in many municipalities. If the scope includes termite beam repair, engineered lumber, or re-supporting a load-bearing wall, you might need an engineer’s letter and stamped drawings. Factor in 1 to 3 weeks for this exchange, longer in busy seasons.

I have had projects where the engineering itself took a day but the back and forth with the city added 10 days. Use that time wisely: order materials, book the crew, and schedule any specialty trades that will share the space.

Structural carpentry: where the visible change begins

Once treatment is complete and you hold the permits, you can open walls and floors aggressively without chasing live insects. This is when the house starts looking worse before it looks better. The crew will:

- Remove damaged finishes and expose full-length members so you can see past the obvious. It’s common to find joists that look shot at one end and solid at midspan, or a beam that is 80 percent intact but crumbles at the pocket due to moisture wicking at the foundation.

For termite sill plate repair, we set temporary posts along the inner edge of the plate, relieve the load, and remove the compromised sections in manageable runs - often 6 to 8 feet at a time. New pressure-treated plates are fastened with approved anchors, then we re-seat the wall framing. Good crews keep loads supported gently over a day or two, instead of jacking aggressively. A slow lift preserves brittle plaster and tile.

Termite floor joist repair can be as simple as sistering with matching lumber if the remaining joist has adequate bearing and less than one third loss. If the damage is close to midspan and the joist is deeply notched by termites, we may add a midspan beam or install LVL sisters that pick up new bearing on added piers. The difference is not cosmetic - a joist repair that only fixes the end while ignoring midspan loss will still bounce underfoot.

Termite beam repair is more delicate. Beams live under concentrated loads, and replacement often means building cribbing, transferring load with screw jacks, and working in short sections for safety. Allow 2 to 5 days for a single-span replacement if access is reasonable. If the beam pockets are inside masonry, add time for demo and patching.

Termite subfloor repair is typically faster. Once joists are solid, subfloor panels can be removed and replaced in a day or two for a room. I always recommend upgrading to modern thickness and adhesives if you have the floor open. A 23/32 tongue and groove panel glued and screwed feels different underfoot than what was there in the 1970s.

In attics, termite attic wood repair often involves rafter sistering and collar tie upgrades. Working overhead is slower. Expect small spans to take a day, full bays and sheathing replacement to stretch into several days. Roof penetrations for vents or old leaks often coincide with termite trails, so be prepared to coordinate with a roofer for proper flashing.

Moisture and the hidden accomplices

Termites love wood, but they also love moisture. I have repaired wall bottoms that only became a buffet because a hose bib dripped for three summers. If your termite wall repair reveals blackened, wet studs or crumbly sheathing, fix the moisture source before you close anything. Sill plates near bath tubs, kitchen sinks, and laundry rooms deserve extra attention. Crawlspace humidity above 60 percent is a red flag. You might need vapor barriers, sealed vents, or even a small dehumidifier under the house. This adds days, but it prevents a relapse.

Plumbing and electrical reroutes sometimes join the party. If a drain line runs through a joist with termite loss, the notch can be illegal and unsafe. Electricians may need to secure hanging cables when damaged framing is removed. Each of these overlaps can add a day here and there, not because the work is slow, but because you are stitching schedules together.

Finishes after structure: walls, drywall, and trim

Once framing passes inspection, you can start closing the envelope. Termite wall repair often means replacing the bottom two feet of studs and sheathing, which in turn calls for careful tying into existing drywall. A clean result requires wider patching than you might expect. When you hear termite drywall repair after termite treatment, plan for dust control and a couple of visits. Drywall finishing is all about drying time between coats. Three coats with light sanding usually takes 3 to 4 days even for modest areas. If your house has historic plaster, factor in the skills and materials that come with lime or veneer finishes.

Trim and paint wrap up quickly after the walls are smooth. Stained wood needs a test board because new trim rarely matches sun-aged casings at first try. Good painters blend across a wall or corner, not just a tiny patch, so expect to repaint full walls or continuous runs for a uniform look.



Floors and the sequence that avoids rework

Flooring comes last in most termite damage restoration, especially if you are replacing subfloor. Hardwood can be feathered in and refinished, but that only looks seamless if you sand to a common stop point in the room. A single bedroom might take 2 to 3 days to lace in boards and sand, with another 2 to 3 days for finish coats with drying time. Tile requires a flat, sturdy base. If you just finished a termite subfloor repair, let the adhesive cure fully and check for squeaks before you set tile. It is always cheaper to spend an extra hour now than to chisel out a brand new tile next week.

Material lead times and how to keep them from running your project

Framing lumber is usually off the shelf. Engineered products - LVLs, hangers, custom steel plates - can add lead time. If your termite beam repair calls for an engineered member of unusual depth or length, order it as soon as the engineer signs off. Special-order windows to replace termite-eaten jambs can add two to four weeks, which argues for temporary plywood closures while work continues elsewhere. The project moves best when you unlock bottlenecks early.

Quality checks that actually matter

After structure, after walls, after paint, it’s tempting to call it done. I recommend a simple walk with a level, a flashlight, and a screwdriver.

- Check every repaired joist bay for consistent bearing and fastener spacing that matches the engineer’s note or the manufacturer’s table.
- Confirm sill anchors at the spacing required by your code.
- Look for straight reveals at doors and windows that sit on repaired walls, a quiet way to confirm plumb.
- Ask your pest professional for a post-repair check, not to retreat, but to ensure all accessible wood is clean and free of live activity.
- Keep photos and permits together. If you sell the house, buyers appreciate the paper trail.

Most termite repair services offer a workmanship warranty separate from the pest warranty. Get both in writing and store them with your maintenance notes.

Light, moderate, and heavy damage: how the calendar shifts

A light case looks like isolated termite ***affordable termite inspector*** wall repair in one corner of a dining room and a soft window stool. Treatment takes a day, permits might be over the counter or not required, and carpentry plus finishes wrap up in 1 to 2 weeks. It’s disruptive only to the affected area.

Moderate damage shows up under a kitchen where a slow leak and hungry termites met under the sink run. Expect termite floor joist repair over a 10 to 12 foot span, subfloor replacement, and new underlayment before cabinets can be rehung. Scheduling plumbing disconnects and reconnects turns the job into a 3 to 5 week dance, plus some kitchen downtime.

Heavy damage is structural and often involves a beam or multiple rooms. I had a case where a center girder in a 1950s ranch had lost at least half its section over 10 feet. That job needed shoring, an engineer’s detail for an LVL beam, two new piers, and full subfloor replacement in the hallway. Start to finish, including permits and inspection intervals, the work took 7 weeks. No shortcuts, no drama, and a floor that stopped feeling like a trampoline.

Cost and time are linked, but not in a straight line

Homeowners try to extrapolate time from the size of the house. I have seen small bungalows with complex termite structural repair take longer than larger homes with straightforward sistering. Access controls pace. Crawlspaces with 12 inches of clearance slow everything. Plaster and lath walls add dust control and careful demo. Historic trim that you want to save demands handwork. None of this is bad news, it just means you should budget time in layers.

Coordinating the team: who does what, and when

The pest company handles the insects. A general contractor or a specialized wood repair contractor handles the wood. If your search history looks like termite repair near me or wood repair contractor termite damage near me, aim for firms that can show before-and-after photos of framing, not just cosmetic patches. For complex cases, a structural engineer is a short-term but crucial part of the team. Electricians and plumbers dip in and out as needed.

For homeowners who prefer to self-manage trades, keep the order tight. Treatment first, structural carpentry second, trades as needed during open-wall moments, inspections, then close-up finishes. When you blur those lines, you pay for rework.

Drywall, paint, and the patience tax

If you have ever watched paint dry, you know why interior finishes extend the timeline. Even fast-setting joint compound needs a cure before sanding. Oil primer on tannin-heavy old trim takes longer to flash. On humid days, interior finishes can add a day or two just sitting. The best crews stagger tasks: while drywall cures in one room, they are setting trim in another or installing hardware. A little sequencing finesse keeps your job moving.

What you can do while you wait

- Clear access to crawlspace and attics so crews aren’t delayed by stored items.
- Decide on finishes early - paint colors, trim profiles, flooring selections - so materials arrive when walls are ready.

- Photograph opened areas for your records before they close. It helps years later when you hang a heavy mirror or plan another project.
- Ask your pest pro for an annual inspection schedule and a moisture management plan customized to your site.
- Keep a simple log with dates, who was on site, and what was completed. It settles questions later.

These homeowner tasks rarely get mentioned, but they shave days off a timeline by reducing back-and-forth.

Local rules, climate, and why near me actually matters

When people search termite damage repair near me or structural termite repair near me, they are not just thinking about travel distance. Local rules and climate matter. In the Southeast, crawlspace humidity makes sill plate choice and moisture control make-or-break. In the Southwest, drywood termites change the treatment method and the repair sequence because tenting sets a hard stop on interior work. Coastal zones layer on corrosion resistance and special anchors. A local termite damage contractor near me knows these wrinkles and plans for them in the schedule. That local judgment is worth days on the calendar.

Insurance, documentation, and approvals

Insurance coverage for termite damage varies widely. Many policies exclude it outright, but coverage sometimes appears when a sudden and accidental leak led to the conditions that termites exploited. Either way, photograph thoroughly. Keep pest reports, permits, engineer letters, and invoices in a single folder. If you live in a historic district, approvals might be required for exterior carpentry, especially visible trim. That adds time, and it’s one more reason to start the paper trail at the same time you schedule inspections.

Avoiding the common pitfalls that stretch timelines

The single biggest delay I see is starting demo before treatment is complete. The colony scatters, and you chase activity into fresh wood. Another classic is installing new drywall over damp framing. Paint will bubble, mildew will show, and you will pay to open it again. Also, do not skip permits for structural work to “save time.” The time you save today becomes the time you lose when you need to sell and face a buyer’s inspector who asks for proof.

Finally, be wary of too-cheap bids that promise same-week miracles on a heavy structural scope. Efficient work is great, but beams and joists need measured steps. A careful two-week beam repair is not the same as a rushed four-day job that leaves you with doors out of square.

When DIY fits, and when it doesn’t

A handy homeowner can handle termite drywall repair after termite treatment in a powder room or replace a bit of baseboard that shows past feeding. But jacking a beam, cutting out a sill plate under a load-bearing wall, or managing termite subfloor repair under a kitchen full of utilities is not a good DIY playground. Those tasks affect the way loads move through your house, and mistakes show up later as cracks, sags, or worse. For structural items, hire pros. If you are price-sensitive, ask for a scope split where the contractor handles structure and you take on finish paint or final trim caulking.

What pushes timelines longer than expected

Weather freezes exterior trenching or fumigation windows. Hidden damage is found at the second opening. Engineers revise details after seeing the full condition. Specialty materials miss delivery dates. Homeowners add scope - if you always wanted a thicker subfloor and quieter floors, this is indeed the time, but it can add days. None of this is unusual. The surprise is not the problem, it is how the team responds. A responsive contractor who communicates changes and resequences tasks can protect the finish date even when curveballs land.

A sample week-by-week for a moderate project

Picture a 2,000 square foot home with confirmed subterranean activity along the back wall, soft kitchen floors, and a sagging hallway. Week one, pest treatment and detailed assessment. Week two, permits filed, temporary shoring in the crawl, materials ordered. Week three, open floors and walls, perform termite sill plate repair along 16 feet of the back wall, sister three joists, and replace 120 square feet of subfloor. Week four, rough inspections, then drywall patching and base cabinets reset. Week five, flooring laced in, trim installed, paint blended across the kitchen and hallway walls. Week six, punch list, pest pro returns for a clean check, paperwork organized. That’s a real-world six-week arc that includes weekends, inspector schedules, and a rainy Tuesday.

Questions to ask before you sign a repair contract

- How will you coordinate with the pest company so treatment happens before major demo?
- What is your plan for temporary shoring and slow jacking to protect finishes?
- Will you handle permits and, if needed, bring in an engineer?
- What inspections are required, and how will those affect the schedule?
- How do you document concealed work before closing the walls?

Clear answers turn a fuzzy calendar into a predictable one.

The aftercare that keeps timelines from repeating

Once repairs are complete, prevention keeps you off this roller coaster. Keep grade sloping away from the foundation. Do not store firewood against the house. Fix small leaks quickly. Maintain dehumidification in damp crawlspaces. Ask for annual pest inspections, and look at them as cheap insurance. Termite damage repair is not just about replacing wood. It is about interrupting the conditions that invited the problem.

Repairing termite damage to a house looks intimidating on paper, but the path is solid: identify and treat, stabilize, obtain approvals, fix the structure, restore the finishes, and prevent a repeat. With a steady sequence and a realistic timeline, most homes return to strong and square without derailing your life for a season. And if you are staring at a soft baseboard right now, start with a call to a local pro who knows your soils, your codes, and the way your region builds. The timeline gets real the moment the right people step on site.