

# Understanding the Basics of Direct Heat (T.P.E.)

## **Commonly Asked Questions**

Q) What is T.P.E.?

A) T.P.E. stands for Thermal Pest Eradication. Thermal, meaning making use of heat. Pest, as defined in the Structural Pest Control Act. Eradication, as defined by Webster's, to eliminate. In a nutshell, we are using heat to eliminate the target pest.

Q) How does DIRECT HEAT work?

A) DIRECT HEAT technology uses controlled and monitored heat to eliminate structural pests by exceeding the limits of their tolerances. Properly applied, the process is totally effective against all insect species without the use of toxic compounds or chemicals. For example, by raising the temperature to 130 degrees inside an infested member of wood for one hour, you can eliminate dry wood termites. After a complete DIRECT HEAT termite or pest inspection has been performed and the bid has been accepted by the owner of the area to be treated, the treatment can begin. A certified T.P.E. technician will induce heat into the area using specially designed heaters. The heat flows through Mylar ducting into the treatment area and is confined by tarps or thermal blankets. Heat temperatures are measured through state of the art digital thermometers and needle thin temperature probes. These probes can be used to measure heat inside wood framing for wood destroying organisms, amenity air temperatures for pantry pests and inside heat sensitive items to make sure temperatures never rise to a damaging degree.

Q) What pest is the DIRECT HEAT process effective on?

A) In theory, heat can be used on all pests, however the number of pests that are currently being treated are as follows: Dry wood termites, powder post beetles, carpenter ants, pantry pests, carpet beetles, other wood destroying organisms and paper wasps.

Q) What is required of the technician and the inspector to use the DIRECT HEAT treatment?

A) Heat is an ecological and technological breakthrough in treating entire or partial structures like single family homes, apartments, condominiums, hospitals, schools, industrial offices and complexes. In the near future, heat will be used in agriculture for stored food products, in place of chemicals, in some situations. Companies that use heat are performing tests every day and these tests are freely shared throughout our industry, so possibilities are becoming endless where heat can be used effectively.

Q) What preparations must be made by the homeowner or resident before treatment?

A) The requirements for a successful DIRECT HEAT treatment are basic but very important. First and most important is the inspection. Without a complete and thorough report it is impossible for the treatment to be done correctly. All areas that are accessible must be checked to be sure that all infestation is found. Field training is also important. Even though very rarely is the inspector required to be on the job, it is beneficial for the inspector to have some working knowledge of how the actual job is done. This enables the inspector to explain it to the customer and have respect for what the technician has to do. Finally they will have their own DIRECT HEAT field form in addition to the inspectors' report. This usually contains specific questions pertaining to the area(s) that need to be treated. (See sample T.P.E. form)

Q) What are the benefits of using DIRECT HEAT?

A) Benefits from using heat include the following:

- No chemicals
- No bagging food or medicine
- No move out
- No harm to plants or animals
- No odor
- No roof damage
- Most treatments can be completed in approximately 6 to 8 hours