

DECAY

DRY ROT / WET ROT

Dry Rot and Wet Rot within buildings cause many millions of pounds worth of damage every year and frequently go unnoticed until major works are required to correct the damage.

The deterioration of timber is invariably linked to high moisture content. Wood is hygroscopic - in moist conditions timber will absorb water and become palatable for fungi and insects. Qualified, specialist surveyors will track the growth of Dry Rot which can be controlled and eradicated by lowering moisture levels and deploying carefully targeted chemical treatment.

Dry Rot Sporophore.



Dry Rot mycelium growing on floor joists.

TREATMENT

Dry Rot can pass through walls and buildings searching for moisture - Wet Rot cannot, therefore its growth is restricted.

As solid walls take several years to dry, minimal chemical treatment is necessary to prevent further Dry Rot outbreaks.

- Stop the moisture source - the single most important step.
- Remove decayed timber and assess the damage.
- Treat the affected area.
- Reinstate treated and isolated timbers.

INSECT ATTACK

WOODWORM / DEATH WATCH BEETLE



Anobium punctatum.

As the quality of timber used in buildings declined (from solid oak heartwood in the 17th Century to fast growing pine sapwood today) the incidence of Woodworm in buildings increased.

The term **Woodworm** is given to one beetle - *Anobium punctatum*. Its presence has now decreased in modern, centrally-heated buildings but ground floor voids and roof spaces continue to be poorly ventilated and unheated, providing ideal conditions for the beetle to multiply.

TREATMENT

- If upon inspection an infestation is confirmed to be active, the timbers (if sound) would be sprayed with a water based fluid with the minimum level of disturbance.

The **Death Watch Beetle** typically attacks Oak and Elm following decay by a wet rot fungi - *Donkioporia expansa*. Its control has to be carefully considered since hardwoods absorb low levels of preservative fluid.

Death Watch Beetle attack of oak.

TREATMENT

- Careful injection of shakes, emergence holes and cavities together with surface application of specifically formulated paste preservatives.
- Resin based techniques enable timber to be repaired in situ, retaining the original appearance.
- Existing floors can be stress graded then structurally upgraded with resin, giving additional loading capacity.

