

Media Center



Protecting New Jersey's Historic Landmarks

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Country's Only Existing Civil War Drill Hall Treated for Termites



When we think of pest control, we generally think of treating homes for ants, bees and other occasional pests. We also consider treating restaurants to assure they are cockroach and rodent free. However, we may seldom think of historical landmarks that are structurally threatened by wood destroying pests such as termites. Some of these landmarks have existed for more than one hundred years. One such historic landmark is the Civil War Drill Hall (Drill Hall) in Leonia, New Jersey.

Built in 1859, just before the start of the Civil War, the Drill Hall is a national historic landmark and the only existing wood frame Civil War Drill Hall in the country. Added to the [National Register of Historic Places](#) on October 19, 1978, the Drill Hall is the home to the [Players' Guild of Leonia](#) (Guild). Founded in 1919, the Guild is one of New Jersey's oldest continuing community theater groups, making this remarkable Drill Hall a perfect place to call home. So when termites threatened, the Guild acted and called NJ Pest Control to help protect its historic group and home.



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Startling statistics



Silently and secretly, termites do more damage every year than house fires, floods and all other natural disasters combined. The annual cost for termite damage repair and control in the U.S. exceeds \$5 billion. It's no wonder Annette Lenge, President of the Guild, looked for someone to help prevent a termite problem from getting worse.

"Our theater, being more than 150 years old, is in constant need of upkeep," Lenge said.

"We lease the building from the Borough of Leonia and are responsible for all maintenance. During a routine check of the site by a carpenter and painter assessing the site for future work, they found termites at work," said Lenge.

Lenge immediately contacted a few area pest management professionals, including NJ Pest Control.

Developing the Plan

NJ Pest Control has been in business for almost 10 years. The company is licensed to treat for many general and structural pests, including termites. The company has treated older homes in the past but this was its first opportunity to treat a historic landmark.

"When we heard about the Guild's needs, we were happy to meet with the board to discuss treatment options," Russell Sieb, Owner, NJ Pest Control said. "We were confident we could come up with an effective solution that would provide protection against termites."

The first step for Sieb was meeting with the Guild's board to review the issues the Guild faced including any construction challenges.

"One of the biggest challenges for us was the way the property was built. With a building as old as the Drill Hall, we wanted to pay special attention to how the original framework was constructed, note any additions and updates the Guild had completed and take a look at areas surrounding the structure, such as the walkway, to ensure our treatment program fit the Guild's specific needs," Sieb said.

"Russ was incredibly thorough with his inspection, even discovering a carpenter bee problem the other companies didn't find," Lenge said.

Once Sieb surveyed the scene, he discussed the treatment options.

“Russ’ easy going style and patience with explaining his process made him our ideal candidate. He was interested in all aspects of the building concerning treatment as well as the history of the site. He went forward in getting the job done gratis,” Lenge said.

“We recommended the use of **Termidor® termiticide/insecticide** as it was the best product for the job. The Guild’s board was happy with the different treatment perspective we brought to the table,” Sieb said.

A benefit to using **Termidor** is how it’s applied. Sieb’s crew treated in the Drill Hall’s crawl space where termite activity was noted and along the exterior perimeter of the structure using BASF’s patented Perimeter**PLUS™** application technique, a less invasive yet effective technique that allows for minimal disruption of areas around a structure.

“Using the Perimeter**PLUS** technique, **Termidor** provides the PMP with the flexibility of providing a customized treatment that will not only be effective against termites but will also work within the structural challenges associated with historic sites,” said Bill Kolbe, Market Development Specialist with BASF Pest Control Solutions.

Termidor is also a good choice as it is undetectable so termites neither avoid nor go around the treatment zone. Its “Transfer Effect” means when a termite comes in contact with it, the termite becomes a carrier and then transfers the liquid to other termites in the colony. **Termidor** is slow-acting, which means individual termites have ample time to transfer it to other termites in the colony.

“We’ve used **Termidor** for eight years and won’t use anything else,” Sieb said.

Sieb’s next step is to follow up with the Guild to see if there are any other pest issues that arise due to additional building repairs. He’ll also complete annual inspections for the Guild.

“We’ve worked with other community organizations in the past such as the Morris County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. When the opportunity to work with the Players’ Guild of Leonia presented itself, I needed to be a part of it. Choosing the right product was easy - **Termidor**. I use **Termidor** because it starts working as soon as it’s applied. There is no ‘waiting’ period and I knew it would fit the unique needs of this structure,” Sieb said.

“As a veteran, I’m proud to have been a part of this project and more than that, I’m extremely honored to have been entrusted to protect this historic landmark.”

About Russ Sieb & NJ Pest Control

Russ Sieb is a Navy veteran having served from 1988-1992 including a tour of duty in Desert Storm. He is licensed in New Jersey in several categories, general pest control, wood destroying insects, public health and more. Sieb is also an Associate Certified Entomologist (ACE: certified by the Entomological Society of America) and holds a bachelors degree from Rutgers University in criminal justice. NJ Pest Control has been voted best pest control in Morris County for the last three years 2007-2009.

A Termidor® termiticide/insecticide application can only be performed by a licensed pest control professional.

Termidor is not registered for termite use in the state of New York.

Always read and follow label directions.

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