You finish termite treatment, the technician waves goodbye, and the house suddenly feels quieter than it has in months. Then you notice the scars. Pinholes across one wall. A bubbled patch in the hallway. A baseboard that crumbles between your fingers. The temptation is to slap on a little spackle and paint, call it done, and reclaim your weekend. I get it. I have also opened a small “cosmetic” patch and discovered a stud chewed to a pencil. Termites hide their worst work behind drywall, so you repair what you can see only after you understand what you cannot.

This guide explains how to move from a treated infestation to a clean, solid wall. We will work through how termites damage gypsum and wood, how to assess what is really going on inside the cavity, and how to choose the right repair, from a simple drywall patch to full termite structural repair. Along the way I will flag the practical details that separate a tidy, lasting fix from a problem that reappears with the seasons.

First things first: is the colony dead?

Drywall repair after termite treatment should never outrun verification that the termites are actually gone. Your pest pro likely used a soil termiticide, a bait system, or direct wood treatments. The kill is not always instantaneous. With baits, activity can trail off over a few weeks. Here is how I handle the waiting window.

I schedule a follow up visit 2 to 4 weeks after treatment. I ask the technician to reinspect the active areas, probe exposed wood, and check bait stations. If you are seeing fresh mud tubes built since the treatment date, or hearing light ticking in a quiet room at night, you are not ready for repairs. When activity stops, and the tech signs off, you can open walls without fear that you are sealing live insects inside.

What termites do to drywall, and why it matters

Termites do not eat gypsum. They are after cellulose, which means paper facing, wood studs, sill plates, baseboards, and subfloors. Drywall looks like a harmless sandwich: paper outside, gypsum in the middle. Subterranean termites will tunnel through the paper, carve galleries just under the surface, and leave the outer paint film looking intact until it blisters. Drywood termites can chew neat pinholes through paint and paper with powdery frass trickling out like gritty coffee grounds.

In real projects I see three repeating patterns:

- Cosmetic paper damage only. You strip a bubble and the gypsum core is sound. A skim coat plus primer solves it.
- Paper damage with localized stud damage. You find a few feet of crumbly wood at the bottom of a stud bay, often within 12 inches of the floor where mud tubes enter.
- Full cavity involvement. Sill plate, studs, and sometimes the back of baseboards are hollowed. In bathrooms and kitchens, expect termite subfloor repair or sill plate replacement around plumbing penetrations.

Drywall hides structure. That is why a smart termite wall repair starts with targeted demolition to expose what the insects used as their highway.

How to plan the sequence without creating chaos

Termite damage repair goes smoothly when you commit to a top down plan. Repairs fall into a predictable order: confirm eradication, open just enough wall to see, fix the wood, fix anything you disturbed, then close the wall and blend the finish. Skip steps and you end up reopening patches, which no one enjoys.

Here is a compact sequence I give homeowners to keep everyone in sync, from pest control to painter:

- Confirm no active termites with a post treatment inspection and photo notes.
- Map affected rooms, then open targeted sections to full stud width, floor to at least 16 inches high.
- Complete termite wood repair first, including sill plate, studs, and any floor joist sistering.
- Restore utilities and insulation in the cavity, then install drywall, finish, and paint.
- Address moisture risks and soil contact grading to prevent a repeat.

Opening the wall without overshooting

Cut only what you need. I aim for clean, plumb cuts centered on studs, because tying new drywall back to structure is simpler and the seams finish better. In a hallway with bubbling paint 6 inches above the baseboard, I will start with a horizontal cut at 16 to 18 inches above the floor, from one stud to the next. If I see sill plate rot or suspect mud tubes running upward, I will extend the opening to 24 inches. In kitchens, I prefer pulling the entire backsplash panel from counter to base cabinet toe kick when there is termite staining along outlets.

Use a utility knife for the first scoring passes, then a drywall saw. Avoid rotary tools unless you are confident where wires and pipes run. I have seen too many neat circular arcs across a cable because someone wanted to work fast. If the home is pre 1978 and you are disturbing paint, follow lead safe work practices and containment. For plaster and lath, be patient and plan for a bit more cleanup.

What to look for once the cavity is open

The moment the panel comes off, slow down. Photograph everything. Termite damage restoration begins with understanding load paths and water paths.

Probe the sill plate with an awl. If it sinks with finger pressure, plan on at least a partial termite sill plate repair. Check the vertical studs, especially near the bottom and at corners where mud tubes often concentrate. If a stud face looks intact but the awl plunges deep in a soft pocket, you can often save it with a treated sister, not a full replacement.

Look at the back of the baseboard and the lower 6 inches of drywall you removed. Powdery paper and painted shells that crumble tell you the insects ran behind trim. Follow any staining on the subfloor. In crawlspace homes,

I drop into the crawl to check for adjacent termite floor joist repair needs. In basements, I check the rim joist and any beam pockets for termite beam repair. In attics, if you had ceiling pinholes, examine the top plates and rafters for termite attic wood repair.

Moisture meters help. Termites love wet wood. If the meter pegs high near a plumbing line, fix the leak first. The best termite repair services combine pest control with basic building science, and the fastest way to invite a second infestation is to leave a chronic drip or poor ventilation in place.

Structural repairs that hold up over time

Drywall is cosmetic. Wood repair carries the load. I break termite structural repair work into a few predictable buckets, each with a method that is reliable and repeatable.

Sill plate repair. In houses where the bottom plate is chewed along an exterior wall, I cut out 2 to 4 foot sections between anchor points, then slide in new pressure treated plate stock. On a slab, I use approved concrete anchors at the same spacing as the original. On a framed floor, I toenail into the joists and use structural screws through the studs into the new plate. It is rare to need to jack a wall for a plate swap on a non load bearing run, but for bearing walls, temporary support is mandatory. You can stage it with a pair of 2 by 4 screw jacks and a 4 foot header to lift a six foot segment just enough to relieve pressure.

Stud repair. If a stud has 20 percent or less section loss, I often sister a new stud alongside, full height from plate to plate, glued and screwed. For severe loss, I cut the stud above the damaged zone and insert a new section with metal mending plates and a tight fit to plates. For corners, I sometimes rebuild to a modern two stud corner to improve insulation space.

Floor joist and beam repair. Subterranean termites love damp crawlspaces. Sistering is the **Watsonville termite inspection Vanguard** go to move for termite floor joist repair, with a full length treated member attached with structural screws or bolts. Termite beam repair is case by case. I have installed steel flitch plates sandwiched between wood, and I have also transferred load to a new post and footing for localized damage.

Subfloor repair. Termite subfloor repair usually involves cutting back to the center of the nearest joist and tying in new tongue and groove or plywood of the same thickness. In bathrooms, check waste line penetrations. If you see daylight around a pipe, add metal flashing or a snug collar, foam carefully, and seal to block pest pathways.

Framing in attics and walls. Termite framing repair in roof spaces typically means new rafter sisters from ridge to plate. In walls, cripple studs below windows can be rebuilt quickly, but I still look at the sill and jack studs for hidden weakness. Work with a structural termite repair specialist when bearing points are involved.

On jobs with widespread damage, stagger the structural fixes by room so you always have predictable load transfer and you never leave long stretches unbraced.

Choosing the right drywall repair, from patch to full panel

Once the wood is sound and any utilities are squared away, it is time for drywall. Not all repairs are equal.

Small blisters and pinholes. If the paper is only surface damaged and the gypsum core is firm, you can cut away the loose paper, seal exposed gypsum with a setting compound or a specialized primer sealer, skim, sand, and paint. Do not skip the sealer. Bare gypsum will flash through paint and telegraph repairs.

Medium cuts between studs. The cleanest repair uses a backer. I like to screw 1 by 2 cleats behind the existing drywall, then inset a patch cut to a snug fit. Tape with paper tape and a setting type compound for the first coat.

Feather the second and third coats wider than you think. In bright light, a 12 to 14 inch feather hides seams better than a narrow patch.

Full height replacements. In rooms with a strip cut at the bottom for sill plate work, I sometimes replace the entire sheet to avoid a horizontal joint at knee height in a sunlit hallway. Where moisture is present, use mold resistant drywall. In bathrooms, cement board belongs in tile wet zones, drywall is fine outside them.

Fire blocking and vapor details. If you opened a wall to the attic or a floor cavity, restore any fire blocking you removed with 2 by material or approved mineral wool. In colder climates with a poly vapor retarder, seal the new panel to the old with acoustical sealant at the seams, not a general caulk that dries hard and cracks.

Matching texture. Smooth walls are the simplest. For orange peel or knockdown, practice on a scrap with a small hopper gun or aerosol texture. Feather the new texture into the old, let it dry, and then lightly sand to knock off highs. In older homes, hand troweled textures can be tricky. I keep a small assortment of knives and sponges for these. Take your time. An extra hour here saves repainting the entire wall later.

Priming and paint. Use a high quality primer that seals joint compound and any stained paper. If termite debris stained the paper, a shellac based or pigmented shellac primer locks it in. Then apply two finish coats. If you are matching a color that has lived on the wall for years, plan on painting corner to corner to avoid a visible patch.

Dealing with plaster and other edge cases

Not every wall is drywall. Old houses have plaster over lath, sometimes with rock lath sheets that look like early drywall. Termite wall repair in plaster calls for a different touch. If the keys are intact but the face coat has blisters from paper damage, you can skim with a veneer plaster. If you must open a cavity, cut a clean rectangle and plan on using plaster washers to stabilize adjacent loose plaster. When you patch, you can use blue board and a veneer plaster finish for a near match, or standard drywall with joint compound if the surrounding field is paint grade and smooth.

In tiled areas, you will be into cement board. Do not bring paper faced drywall back behind a shower wall just because it is fast. It will come back to haunt you.

Moisture, grading, and keeping termites away for the long haul

You can repair termite damage to house structure and drywall perfectly, and still have a repeat if conditions remain friendly to pests. Walk the exterior. Downspouts should discharge away from the foundation by at least a few feet. Soil or mulch should sit at least 6 inches below siding or brick ledge. Landscape timbers, stacked firewood, or stored cardboard against the house are invitations.

Indoors, watch relative humidity in crawlspaces and basements. In many regions, anything above 60 percent for long stretches is a problem. A small dehumidifier on a drain line costs less than another round of termite damage restoration. Bathrooms need vent fans that actually exhaust outside, not into an attic.

If your pest company applied a soil barrier, do not disturb the soil within a foot of the foundation unless you plan to call them back to retreat the area. If you are eager to replant near the foundation, let them know first.

How much it costs, and what takes the most time

Costs swing with scope and access. A small drywall-only patch might be under a few hundred dollars including paint. Opening and repairing two stud bays with new drywall and baseboards often lands between 600 and 1,500 dollars, depending on finish level. Termite sill plate repair in a short non bearing wall might add 400 to 800

dollars. Sistering several floor joists, adding posts, and replacing subfloor can quickly reach several thousand. Termite attic wood repair for a few rafters sits in a similar range.

Labor often dominates. Texture matching and paint blending can take more time than cutting and installing the drywall. Structural termite repair is where costs ramp, because staging, jacking, and careful carpentry cannot be rushed. If you need permits for structural changes, add inspection time. Most jurisdictions do not require a permit for simple drywall replacement, but they do care about framing changes and, in some places, insulation and air sealing.

Insurance rarely pays for termite damage. Many policies exclude it as a maintenance issue. If a covered water leak led to some of the damage, there is a chance the insurer will participate. Document everything with dated photos, reports from the pest company, and invoices from any termite damage contractor near me listings you interview. Ask your agent to review the file before you assume a hard no.

DIY or call a pro, and how to hire well

Plenty of homeowners can handle basic drywall work. If you are dealing with small cosmetic issues after a confirmed successful treatment, DIY can make sense. Where I draw a bright line is structure, electrical, and plumbing. If your inspection reveals termite framing repair needs, or if base plates are soft, bring in a carpenter experienced with structural termite repair. This is not the time for guesswork.

When you search termite repair near me or termite damage repair near me, look for three things in a contractor:

- Experience coordinating with pest companies, not just general carpentry skill.
- Comfort with load paths and temporary support, demonstrated with past project photos.
- A clear plan for protecting occupied rooms from dust and for matching finishes.

Local termite damage repair firms usually know the typical infestations and hidden trouble spots in your region. If you suspect widespread issues, ask whether they can scope adjacent rooms without turning your house into a war zone. A wood repair contractor termite damage near me often pairs with a painter who can quietly make the final patch vanish.

Finishing strong: a simple punch list before you close the book

At the end of the project, I like to walk a short checklist. It catches the small things that grow into callbacks, and it reassures you that the wall is more than just pretty.

- Verify the pest company’s clearance noting no new activity and keep a copy with your records.
- Check that all replaced framing bears tight to plates, with proper fasteners and, where required, approved anchors.
- Confirm insulation, fire blocking, and any vapor control layers are restored at the repair area.
- Sight along the wall and across the light for texture consistency, then check paint coverage at multiple times of day.
- Address exterior grading and downspouts so the area near the repair is dry and well sloped.

A few cases from the field

In a 1950s ranch, a homeowner called after noticing blistered paint six inches off the dining room floor. Treatment had wrapped the house two weeks earlier. We opened a 12 inch strip from corner to corner and found

a sill plate with channels like stale bread. The fix was simple and clean: new pressure treated plate in two sections, sisters on three studs, then a full height replacement sheet of drywall to avoid a horizontal seam. The homeowner repainted the whole wall so the light from a large window would not betray the new panel, and we added a downspout extension to move water six feet from the foundation. Two years later, no issues.

In a coastal bungalow, a tiny pinhole in a bathroom ceiling turned into a bigger story. Drywood termites had tracked along the top plate, chewed the paper off the back of the drywall, and nibbled the first foot of a rafter tail. We tented and treated, then added a sister to the rafter with stainless fasteners because of the salt air, replaced the affected ceiling drywall, and skimmed the entire room so the rolled sand texture matched. The customer had searched structural termite repair near me, and was rightly focused on the roof line. The underlying cause was a bath fan that vented into the attic and kept the space damp. We vented it through the roof, and that was that.

What not to do

I have been called to homes where someone painted over termite tubes and skimmed bubbles without opening the wall. The surface looked better for a season, then doors stuck and cracks opened at corners. Drywall can hide sag for a while, but if a stud loses enough section, it will deflect. Do not rely on the outer paint film as proof of integrity.

Another misstep is skipping primer on torn paper. Joint compound over fuzzy paper blisters when you paint. Seal first, then build your coats.

Finally, do not forget the attic and crawlspace just because the visible issue was inside. Termites travel. A fifteen minute look with a flashlight can save a second round of termite damage repair next year.

The payoff

Termite drywall repair after termite treatment is less about patching a wall and more about restoring a system. When you treat, verify, open smart, repair wood first, and then rebuild the finish with care, you earn two things: a seamless wall and a quiet mind. You also make your home less welcoming to the next colony that tries its luck. Whether you do a small patch yourself or bring in local termite damage repair specialists, the same principles apply. Build back better than what the insects found.