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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Termites Eating Away Profits During Slow Housing Market**

*Terminix-Triad offering free termite inspections to sellers*

GREENSBORO, NC (April 3, 2008) – While national experts say the housing market is back on the upswing, local reports indicate that the average home for sale in the Triad sits on the market a minimum of three months before selling. Those three months are all termites need to become firmly entrenched in a home, yet many sellers are neglecting their pest protection services as a way to save money.

The pest that causes more than \$5 billion in damages to homes in the United States each year is also potentially eating away at home values when an unprotected home sits for sale upwards of 90 to 120 days. In an effort to assist owners and buyers in the local market, Terminix-Triad is encouraging home sellers to take advantage of free termite inspections. Burns Blackwell, vice president and chief operating officer for Terminix-Triad, indicates that while a termite inspection cannot replace the effectiveness of contractual service, it can give homeowners a snapshot of any termite issues. “During an inspection, pest management professionals can tell you if your home is susceptible to infestations, or can check out any visible areas that may be indicative of termites. While, termite inspections do not guarantee that the home is free of wood destroying insects, they do give homeowners an idea about whether their home has conditions that are conducive to termites.”

Blackwell says that homeowners can practice due diligence in preventing termite infestations, but spotting the actual insects can be more challenging. Termites have already started swarming in the Triad region and this time of year the signs of termites are more easily recognizable to the pest professional, indicates Blackwell. “Termites look like flying ants and they usually form mud tunnels in, or around, wood structures. Now

that we're getting into warmer weather, homeowners need to start moving the stack of winter firewood away from the foundation of their home, make sure that the crawlspaces are dry, trim back the hedges and clean out the gutters. If you're starting to notice what looks like water damage, dark spots, or weaknesses on your hardwood floors, housing frames or substructure, you might have termites."

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#### About Terminix Triad

One of the oldest family-owned Terminix franchises, Terminix Triad has serviced customers throughout the Triad and northwestern North Carolina since 1931. Terminix Triad's 190 associates serve 40,000 customers throughout a 17 county footprint by offering pest, termite, and moisture control solutions for the home and office. Parent company, Terminix International Co., is based in Memphis, Tenn., and has a worldwide network of locations, including 864 service centers throughout the United States and in 14 countries around the world. Terminix is a part of the ServiceMaster Quality Service Network. For more information, visit [terminix-triad.com](http://terminix-triad.com).