

European House Borer

The European House Borer is a destructive pest that causes severe damage to seasoned untreated coniferous timber. New importation requirements have been introduced to protect Victoria from this pest.

What Is EHB?

The exotic pest European House Borer (EHB) *Hylotrupes bajulus* (Linnaeus) has been confirmed in Perth, Western Australia. EHB is a destructive pest of seasoned coniferous timber including pine and fir.

Timbers commonly used for structural purposes in Australia, including radiata pine and douglas fir have been shown to be susceptible to damage by EHB. Hardwood timbers such as Jarrah and Karri are not susceptible to EHB.

EHB often infests roof timbers but is also known to infest architraves, door frames and pine furniture. Evidence of the pest can also be found in living trees with dried or dead branch stubs and damaged branches and trunks, dead trees and logs.



Picture: (from left) EHB larva, male and female beetles

About EHB

The adult beetle lays eggs into cracks, holes and joints in dead pine trees, dead branches of living trees and untreated pine timber.

The damage is done by EHB larvae that hatch from eggs. European House Borer can live in its larval state for two to twelve years until it emerges from the timber as an adult beetle to begin the cycle again.

What to look for?

- **Oval shaped emergence holes** - (5-10mm) running with the grain of infested timber from which the adult beetle has emerged.
- **Adult beetles** that are brown/black in colour and 8-25mm in length. They usually emerge from wood in spring/summer.
- **Frass** - This is the droppings of EHB mixed with fine wood dust. This is often found on the ground just below where the adults beetle has emerged.
- **Blisters** - Long blister-like swellings under the surface of a thin layer of uneaten wood where the borer has eaten a gallery (tunnel) through the wood and tightly packed it with frass.
- **A soft scraping sound** - this is made by larvae as they feed and can often be heard at night.



Picture: EHB emergence holes (running with the grain of the wood) and blisters caused by frass

What are the Victorian Requirements?

The Plant Standards Branch of the Department of Primary Industries has introduced quarantine measures to prevent the entry of the pest into Victoria.

Please refer to the attached notice for details of the importation requirements or visit the Plant Standards web page.

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The Adult Beetle - is brownish / black in colour and has a slightly flattened appearance. The wings are usually black and sometimes may have small white markings. Adults are about 8-25mm in length with antennae about half as long as the body. They can lay up to 120 eggs into crevices or cracks in timber.



EHB Larvae - are elongated and cylindrical with an enlarged and flattened head. The length varies up to 41mm and about 7.5mm wide at maturity.



Pine Tree - This shows a dead pine tree which is susceptible material, in and amongst live pine trees. Even dead branches or dead veins in live wood are potential host material.



Pine Draws - EHB has also been detected in untreated pine furniture

To Report Suspect EHB Call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

1800 084 881

For Further Information

visit the Plant Standards web page

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb

Images and information kindly provided by Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia.