



European house borer (EHB)
Hylotrupes bajulus

Don't let EHB bore its way through WA!



European house borer (EHB) *Hylotrupes bajulus* is still present in the greater Perth metropolitan area. It is a declared pest and any suspected EHB activity should be reported.

EHB is a pest of seasoned (dry) coniferous softwood including pine, fir and spruce. In Western Australia (WA), EHB has been found in dead parts of living trees, dead trees, logs and firewood. It also infests susceptible roof timbers, door and wall frames, flooring, architraves and pine articles such as furniture, pallets, crates, boxes and dunnage.

Know what to look for

- EHB adult beetles emerge from the beginning of September to April the following year.
- Beetles are brownish black to greyish black with distinctive white patches on their wings. They also have two raised black shiny knobs behind their head.
- Beetles are 8-25mm in length with antennae half as long as their body.
- Boring larvae make a soft scraping noise under the surface of the wood. They are creamy white with a rippled body and can grow up to 40mm long.
- Exit holes are 5-10mm in length and run with the grain of the wood. Powdery wood dust can sometimes be found below exit holes.



EHB exit holes, 5-10mm in length

STOP the spread – Keep EHB out of your home

The only way to truly protect your home is to prevent the spread of EHB to the properties of both yourself and others. This can be achieved through vigilance in the movement and handling of any pinewood.

Once infestation has occurred, early discovery can provide home owners with the opportunity to control the pest before serious damage occurs. Whilst EHB larvae can live inside a piece of timber for up to 12 years, research has shown Western Australian conditions are contributing to a shorter life cycle of between 2-5 years.

If EHB is not found early, two or three generations may re-infest the same piece of timber, causing significant structural damage.

Prevention

- When building use treated pine (hazard level H2 or higher) or other non-susceptible materials.
- Ensure homes built with untreated pinewood are inspected by an accredited pest controller with EHB training.



Build your home with treated pine



Untreated pine

Storage

- Store pinewood in a secure building or keep fully enclosed in plastic wrapping.



Wood wrapped in plastic

Movement

- **Do not** remove pinewood from plantations and parkland areas.
- **Do not** collect pinewood placed on verges for local government collection.



Dead pinewood in a plantation

Disposal

- Chip pinewood waste, ensuring it is smaller than 100cm³.
- Burn felled pine trees, dead parts of trees and waste timber articles under local government burn permits.
- Live pine trees should be kept free of dead wood. The dead wood must be disposed of appropriately.
- Call PaDIS on **9368 3080** to be directed to a DPIRD biosecurity officer to discuss a suitable measure for your property.



Wood chip pile

Are you in a Restricted Movement Zone (RMZ)?

- An RMZ is a gazetted control area surrounding a site of EHB infestation.
- Seasoned and unseasoned pinewood movement in and out of an RMZ may be regulated to minimise further EHB infestation and spread within WA and interstate.
- To view the RMZ map and imposed regulations visit the EHB website at agric.wa.gov.au/ehb

Other insects confused with EHB

Below are the common insect species around Perth that are mistaken for EHB.



Jewel beetle



Longicorn beetle



Male and female EHB



Mole cricket



Earwig



Click beetle

EHB is circled in red

Susceptible tree species

The tree species most commonly infested with EHB in WA are the two plantation pine species *Pinus pinaster* and *Pinus radiata*. For a list of other tree species susceptible to EHB, visit agric.wa.gov.au/ehb



Know what to look for and report any signs of EHB activity

Pest and Disease Information Service

- Call +61(0)8 9368 3080
- Email padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

MyPestGuide

- Photograph and map it using the MyPestGuide™ Reporter (download the **app** or make an online report)
- Mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au (Select EHB survey from the 'send report to' list)



Important disclaimer

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Department of **Primary Industries and Regional Development**

3 Baron-Hay Court, South Perth WA 6151

+61 1300 374 731 | enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au | dpird.wa.gov.au

ABN: 18 951 343 745

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