



What to Do About Dry Rot

Your home is most likely your greatest investment. To protect your home, it is important to be able to spot small problems before they become major expenses. **Dry rot** is one of those problems.

Dry rot is caused by a fungus that feeds on wood and weakens it. Wood becomes cracked and brittle and eventually breaks down. Here are **three** things you should know about dry rot:

1) Where to look for dry rot.

Areas to check for rot include:

- Wooden window sills.
- Where a deck/trellis attaches to the home.
- Where a vertical surface meets a horizontal surface.

Look for cracking, splits, and discoloration, which may indicate the presence of rot. Dry rot can also occur at points of a structure where wood meets the ground.

2) What to do if you discover dry rot.

Dry rot is progressive so you will want to make repairs as soon as possible. **You will first need to stop the source of the moisture.** Replace wood that has been structurally weakened, possibly with pressure treated wood.

Once you have found the source of moisture, repair the problem. If there is severe damage, pry off and replace the old wood. Small areas of rot can be repaired with epoxy resin. If the wood is still structurally sound and the source of the moisture has been stopped, you can treat the area with borate, a fungicide, to stop the growth of the fungus and protect the wood from further damage.

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3) How to prevent dry rot.

Rot occurs when there is wood combined with high moisture. To prevent rot, there are several things you can do around your house:

- Check all wall and roof flashing to ensure water is being directed properly.
- Check deck and porch flashings.
- Keep wood siding and trims off the ground and away from the roof and masonry.
- Make sure all windows and doors are properly flashed.
- Keep up on painting and caulking.
- Keep drains and downspouts clear.

Most importantly, treat dry rot as soon as it is discovered! Untreated dry rot can cause major damage to your home.