

# **Building and Timber Pest Inspection Report VR**

Inspection Date: Tue, 17 Oct 2023

Property Address: 27 Mort Street, Surry Hills

Jim's Building Inspections is pleased to advise that a Building & Pest Inspection Report for the above property is now available.

Vendor reports are provided by the vendor for reference only until such time as the potential purchaser purchases their own copy of this report.

A purchased copy of the report will entitle you to engage the inspector with any questions you may have in regards to the report and insurances.

The price of this report is available online.

Should you wish to purchase this report please go online to www.jimsbuildinginspections.com.au click on BUY REPORT and type in the address of the property.



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If you have any queries with this report or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the person who carried out the inspection. This Report has been prepared in accordance with the pre-inspection agreement in place between the parties set out below, which set out the purpose and scope of the inspection, and the significant items that will be reported on. This Report reflects the opinion of the inspector based on the documents that have been provided. This Report should be read in its entirety and in the context of the agreed scope of Services. If there is a discrepancy between the summary findings and the body of the Report, the body of the Report will prevail. We recommend that you should promptly implement any recommendation or advice in this Report, including recommendations of further inspections by another specialist. If you have any queries with this Report or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the person who carried out the inspection. This Report contains reference to material that is the copyright of Standards Australia reproduced under agreement with SAI Global to Jim's Building Inspections (Australia).

Original Inspection Date: Tue, 17 Oct 2023

Modified Date: Wed, 18 Oct 2023

Name of the Client:	
Name of the Principal(If Applicable)	):
Job Address:	27 Mort Street, Surry Hills
Client's Email Address:	
Client's Phone Number:	
Consultant:	
Company Name:	
Company Address and Postcode:	PO Box 1376 Maroubra 2035
Company Email:	
Company Contact Numbers:	

# **Special conditions or instructions**

A report may be conditional on information provided by the person, agents or employees of the person requesting the report, apparent concealment of possible defects and a range of other factors

The following apply: Not Applicable

The Parties

# **Section A Results of Inspection - summary**

A summary of your inspection is outlined below; please also refer to the Report.

	Found	Not Found
Safety Hazard		<b>~</b>
Major Defect		<b>~</b>
Minor Defect	~	
Live Timber Pest Activity		<b>~</b>
Timber Pest Damage	<b>~</b>	
Conditions Conducive to Timber Pest Activity		<b>~</b>
Evidence of fungal decay activity and/or damage	<b>✓</b>	
Evidence of wood borer activity and/or damage		<b>~</b>
Evidence of a previous termite management program		~

## **Overall Condition (Building)**

In summary, the building, compared to others of similar age and construction is in the condition documented in this report.

## **Overall Condition (Timber Pest)**

In summary, the building, compared to others of similar age and construction is moderately susceptible to timber pests. A termite treatment is recommended.

# **Section B General**

# **General description of the property**

Building Type	Residential
Company or Strata title	No
Floor	Timber with concrete areas, Part Slab and Part Subfloor
Furnished	Furnished
No. of bedrooms	4
Occupied	Occupied
Orientation	South
Other Building Elements	Fence - Brick, Fence - Fabricated Metal Fence
Other Timber Bldg Elements	Architraves, Door Frames, Doors, Eaves, Fascias, Floorboards, Internal Joinery, Skirting Boards, Stair Railing, Staircase, Window Frames
Roof	Coated Metal, Pitched, Timber Framed
Storeys	Double
Walls	Full Brick
Weather	Raining

# **Section C Accessibility**

## **Areas Inspected**

The following areas were inspected. As documented in your Pre-Inspection Agreement, obstructions and limitations to the accessible areas for inspection are to be expected in any inspection. Refer also to our listing of obstructions and limitations.

- Roof Void Part
- Roof Exterior Part
- Wall Exterior
- Exterior
- Interior

The inspection excludes areas which are affected by obstructions, where access is limited or unsafe. We do not move obstructions and defects, timber pest activity or conditions conducive to these may not be obvious unless they are removed.

## **Inaccessible Areas**

The following areas were inaccessible:

- Subfloor due to lack of access.
- Wall exterior due to obstructions.
- Roof Exterior Part
- Exterior Roof Surface Second Storey.
- Areas of skillion or flat roof no access
- Ceiling Cavity Part.

Any areas which are inaccessible at the time of inspection present a high risk for undetected defects and timber pest activity and conditions conducive to these. The client is advised to make inaccessible areas accessible wherever possible for re-inspection.

## **Obstructions and Limitations**

Building defects, termite and timber pest activity as well as conditions conducive to both, may be concealed by the following obstructions which prevented full inspection:

- Appliances and equipment

- Areas of skillion or flat roof no access
- Ceiling linings
- Fixed ceilings
- Fixed Furniture Built-in Cabinetry
- Floor coverings
- Furniture
- Stored items
- Wall linings

The presence of obstructions increases the risk of undetected building defects, timber pest activity and conditions conducive to these. The client should make arrangement to remove obstructions where ever possible and re-inspect these areas urgently.

# **Undetected defect risk (Building)**

A risk rating is provided to help you understand the degree to which accessibility issues and the presence of obstructions have limited the scope of the inspection

The risk of undetected defects is: Medium

When the risk of undetected defects is medium or high we strongly recommend further inspection once access is provided or if the obstruction can be removed. Contact us for further advice.

## **Undetected defect risk (Timber Pest)**

A risk rating is provided to help you understand the degree to which accessibility issues and the presence of obstructions have limited the scope of the inspection

The risk of undetected defects is: High

When the risk of undetected defects is medium or high we strongly recommend further inspection once access is provided or if the obstruction can be removed. Contact us for further advice.

# **Section D Significant Items**

# **Safety Hazard**

No evidence was found

# **Major Defect**

No evidence was found

## **Minor Defect**

## Finding 3.01

Building: Main Building Location: Exterior walls

Finding: Cracking - Damage Category 2 - Noticeable (up to 5mm)

Information: Noticeable cracks are a common occurrence as a result of many primary defects.

Such causes may include age, general wear and tear, expected building movement, general expansion/contraction of building materials in different weather conditions,

and/or minor failings in the installation or application of building materials.

I recommend monitoring and if further cracking is evident appoint a bricklayer to see

what works are required.



# Finding 3.02

Building: Main Building Location: Throughout

Finding: Cracking - Damage Category 1 - Fine (up to 1mm)

Information: Although fine cracks are quite noticeable, they are often only considered to be an

appearance defect, and usually do not indicate any structural damage. Generally, the cause of a fine crack is indicative of a separation between building materials and

finishes (e.g. paint, plaster, etc.) along joins.

Cracking of this nature can generally be repaired with minor sanding, filling and/or repainting. Such works should be performed by a qualified painter or a general handyman.

Monitoring of all cracking should be conducted frequently. Always contact a building inspector should cracks widen, lengthen, or become more numerous.









Finding 3.03

Building: Main Building Location: Lounge Room Finding: Damp - Rising

Information: Rising damp describes the upward movement of water in low sections of building

elements (e.g. walls) by capillary action - the movement of water through porous

materials such as bricks, sandstone or mortar.

Rising damp is generally managed by the installation of a damp proof course during construction. A Damp Proof Course (DPC) is an impermeable barrier at the base of the wall above ground level.

I recommend appointing a damp proofing specialist to see what necessary works are required.



# Finding 3.04

Building: Main Building Location: Dining Room

Finding: Damp - Rain penetration

Information: Rain penetration (also known as penetrating damp) is a common form of dampness

that can occur through walls, roofs or openings (e.g. windows).

Common causes include faulty or missing flashing, lack of sealant and lateral damp.

The cause of the water leak should be addressed to prevent further damage. It is recommended that the water leak be resolved prior to any repairs of the damaged area, which may require localised replacement of building materials and refinishing.

I recommend appointing a builder to see what necessary works are required.



# Finding 3.05

Building: Main Building Location: Dining Room

Finding: Ceiling - Water stained

Information: Water staining to ceiling linings in this area was evident at the time of inspection. Water

staining indicates that surfaces have been exposed to excessive moisture over time.

The minerals and other elements in the water lead to staining, which may graduate to

corrosion and deterioration if left unmanaged.

Although there was no moisture detected in the ceiling I would recommend monitoring and acting on one of the following.

Where water staining is active, a licensed plumber must be consulted to identify the cause of the staining and to provide advice on any reparation works that may be required. Replacement of any damaged structures is advised.

Conversely, where water staining is old and inactive, affected building materials may be repaired or replaced at client discretion.



# Finding 3.06

Building: Main Building Location: Upstairs

Finding: Ceiling - Water stained

Information: Water staining to ceiling linings in this area was evident at the time of inspection. Water

staining indicates that surfaces have been exposed to excessive moisture over time. The minerals and other elements in the water lead to staining, which may graduate to

corrosion and deterioration if left unmanaged.

Although there was no moisture detected in the ceiling I would recommend monitoring and acting on one of the following.

Where water staining is active, a licensed plumber must be consulted to identify the cause of the staining and to provide advice on any reparation works that may be required. Replacement of any damaged structures is advised.

Conversely, where water staining is old and inactive, affected building materials may be repaired or replaced at client discretion.









Finding 3.07

Building: Main Building
Location: External Areas

Finding: Wood rot

Information: This building element shows evidence of wood rot. Wood rot, also known as Fungal Decay, occurs when timbers and other cellulose building materials are exposed to damp conditions on an ongoing basis. This could be the result of exposure to weathering over a prolonged period of time, or the attraction of excessive moisture from other abutting building materials.

Early intervention and regular maintenance, particularly of exterior timbers, will prolong the useful life of these building elements. Prior to any works being performed, the cause of the moisture that has created the visible wood rot should be identified and addressed in a suitable manner. Replacement of affected timbers may then be a necessary step in protecting surrounding building elements from such deterioration.

A qualified carpenter or registered builder may also be required to replace affected building materials.









# **Live Timber Pest Activity**

No evidence was found

# **Timber Pest Damage**

## Finding 5.01

Building: Main Building Location: All Areas

Finding: Termite Management System - no evidence of a chemical installation

Information: The application of a post-construction chemical termite barrier is highly recommended

for all properties, particularly if live termite activity has been found on the site

previously. Such barriers are highly effective in preventing termite attack on any timber

building elements throughout the property.

A durable notice should be placed in the switchboard unit to indicate current termite barriers. At the time of inspection, it appeared as though no termite management system has been installed, with no evidence to suggest preventative works taking place.

The client may consider gaining further advice from a pest controller as to the costs and procedures involved with this application. It is recommended that obtaining such

advice be a short-term priority.



# **Conditions Conducive to Timber Pest Activity**

No evidence was found

# Evidence of fungal decay activity and/or damage

# Finding 7.01

Building: Main Building
Location: External Areas

Finding: Fungal decay - present (localised)

Information: Fungal decay also known as wood decay or wood rot generally refers to the

deterioration of timber elements when in contact with excessive levels of moisture for a

prolonged period of time.

The development of fungal decay is accelerated by temperatures in the range of 5degreeC to 40degreeC as well as the presence of oxygen. Generally fungal decay develops on timber elements that are in use in an external environment which are exposed to rain penetration.

In this case although the affected timber element is in a decaying state the extent of any visible damage appears to be localised to a specific area and is yet to spread to other parts of the building element or affect adjoining structures. The fungal decay is therefore likely to be of a relatively superficial nature with minimal impact on the structural integrity or tensile strength of the timber element.









Evidence of wood borer activity and/or damage

No evidence was found

# **Section D Significant Items**

## **D4 Further Inspections**

We advise that you seek additional specialist inspections from a qualified and, where appropriate, licensed

- As identified in summary and defect statements
- Damp Proofing Specialist
- Registered/Licensed Builder

Jim's Building Inspections can put you in contact with qualified and licensed providers of these and other trades services. Please contact your inspector for recommendations, or visit www.jims.net.

# **D5 Conclusion - Assessment of overall condition of property**

- BUILDING SUMMARY.

The building compared to others of a similar age and construction appears to be in good condition. It does however have issues that will require attention and remedial maintenance. Left unmanaged some of these defects may become costly in the future and develop into more major defects over time.

Please be aware that limitation's did affect the inspection and areas of low clearance and poor access meant a complete inspection of the roof space and subfloor was not possible.

PEST SUMMARY.

The following items are highly recommended:

- Install a termite barrier system to the property (consult a suitably qualified termite expert for advice).
- Access should be gained to the subfloor to allow a complete inspection of the property.
- Treat, repair or replace any Fungal decay/wood rot.
- Regular inspections every 6-12 months.

## Additional information:

- No active termites were found at the time of inspection.
- Trees within 50m of the house that are on other properties can not be inspected.

For further information, advice and clarification please contact John Markham on: 0448 440 082

# **Section D Significant Items**

# The following items were noted as - For your information

# **Noted Item**

Building: Main Building Location: All Areas

Finding: Photos Added

Information: Additional photos are provided for your general reference.









# Definitions to help you better understand this report

Access hole (cover) An opening in flooring or ceiling or other parts of a structure (such as

service hatch, removable panel) to allow for entry to carry out an

inspection, maintenance or repair.

Accessible area An area of the site where sufficient, safe and reasonable access is

available to allow inspection within the scope of the inspection.

Appearance defect Fault or deviation from the intended appearance of a building element.

(ACM)

Asbestos-Containing Material Asbestos-containing material (ACM) means any material or thing that,

as part of its design, contains asbestos.

Building element A portion of a building that, by itself or in combination with other such

parts, fulfils a characteristic function. NOTE: For example supporting,

enclosing, furnishing or servicing building space.

Client The person or other entity for whom the inspection is being carried out.

Conditions Conducive to

Termite Activity

Noticeable building deficiencies or environmental factors that may

contribute to the presence of Termites.

Defect Fault or deviation from the intended condition of a material, assembly,

or component.

Detailed assessment An assessment by an accredited sampler to determine the extent and

magnitude of methamphetamine contamination in a property.

Inspection Close and careful scrutiny of a building carried out without dismantling,

in order to arrive at a reliable conclusion as to the condition of the

building.

Inspector Person or organisation responsible for carrying out the inspection.

Instrument Testing Where appropriate the carrying out of Tests using the following

> techniques and instruments: (a) electronic moisture detecting meter - an instrument used for assessing the moisture content of building elements (b) stethoscope - an instrument used to hear sounds made by termites within building elements (c) probing - a technique where timber and other materials/areas are penetrated with a sharp instrument (e.g. bradawl or pocket knife), but does not include probing of decorative timbers or finishes, or the drilling of timber and trees and (d) sounding a technique where timber is tapped with a solid object. (e) T3I - an instrument used to detect movement, moisture and changes in

temperature within timber

Limitation Any factor that prevents full or proper inspection of the building.

Major defect A defect of sufficient magnitude where rectification has to be carried

	in order to avorioration of the pr		e conditions, lo		OSS (	of utility	or	further
An	amphetamine-t	ype stim	nulant	that	is	highly	ad	dictive.
Methamphetamine is a controlled substance, classified as a Class A								

Methamphetamine

(very high-risk) drug under the Misuse of Drug Act. This term is used as a grouping term to include all substances screened for, specifically: Ephedrine, Pseudoephedrine, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, MDA and MDMA.

Methamphetamine contamination

A property or part of a property where the level of methamphetamine has been tested in accordance with this standard and found to exceed 0.5 micrograms/100 cm2 (Residential) or 10 micrograms/100 cm2 (Commercial).

Methamphetamine production/manufacture The manufacture of methamphetamine, including processing, packaging, and storage of methamphetamine and associated chemicals.

Minor defect A defect other than a major defect.

Roof space/Roof void Space between the roof covering and the ceiling immediately below the roof covering.

Screening assessment An assessment by a screening sampler to determine whether or not methamphetamine is present.

Serviceability defect Fault or deviation from the intended serviceability performance of a building element.

Significant item An item that is to be reported in accordance with the scope of the inspection.

Site Allotment of land on which a building stands or is to be erected.

Structural defect Fault or deviation from the intended structural performance of a building element.

Structural element Physically distinguishable part of a structure. NOTE: For example wall, columns, beam, connection.

Subfloor space Space between the underside of a suspended floor and the ground.

Subterranean Termite A written proposal in accordance with Australian Standard AS 3660.2 to Management Proposal treat a known subterranean termite infestation and/or manage the risk of concealed subterranean termite access to buildings and structures.

**Termites** Wood destroying insects belonging to the order 'Isoptera' which commonly attack seasoned timber.

Tests Additional attention to the visual examination was given to those accessible areas which the consultant's experience has shown to be

particu	ılarly su	ıscept	ible to	attack	by Termites	. Instrument Testing of
those	areas	and	other	visible	accessible	timbers/materials/areas
showing evidence of attack was performed.						

Timber Pest Activity Tell-tale signs associated with 'active' (live) and/or 'inactive' (absence of

live) Timber Pests at the time of inspection.

Timber Pest Attack Timber Pest Activity and/or Timber Pest Damage.

Timber Pest Damage Noticeable impairments to the integrity of timber and other susceptible

materials resulting from an attack by Timber Pests.

Urgent and Serious Safety

Hazards

Building elements or situations that present a current or immediate

potential threat of injury or disease to persons.

# Terms on which this report was prepared

This report is based on the condition of the property at the time of inspection. We strongly recommend re-inspection 30 days after this report is issued as the general condition of the property is likely to have changed, including the extent of defects described and instance of potential undetected defects.

This report has been prepared in accordance with and subject to the pre-inspection agreement in place between the parties, which forms part of this Report.

This Report is prepared for the client identified above and may not be relied on by any other person without our express permission or by the purchase of this Report on our website.

SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE SCOPE, LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS IN YOUR PRE-INSPECTION AGREEMENT AND THIS REPORT

Any of the exclusions or limitations identified for this Report may be the subject of a special-purpose inspection which we recommend being undertaken by an appropriately qualified inspector

#### **RELIANCE AND DISCLOSURE**

This report has been prepared based on conditions at the time of the report.

We own the copyright in this report and may make it available to third parties.

If your Property is in the Australian Capital Territory, you acknowledge we will make certain information about this Report available to the ACT Government for inclusion in the building and pest inspections public register if required under the *Civil Law (Sale of Residential Property) Act 2003*. This will include the fact the report has been prepared, the Property street address, date of the inspection, the name of the person who prepared the report and (if applicable) the entity that employs them.

### UNDETECTED DEFECT RISK RATING

If this Report has identified a medium or high-risk rating for undetected defects, we strongly recommend a further inspection of areas that were inaccessible. This may include an invasive inspection that requires the removal or cutting of walls, floors or ceilings.

If the Property has been vacant for a period of time, moisture levels or leaks may not be detectable at the time of the inspection because often only frequent use of water pipes (showers, taps etc) result in a leak being identifiable. We advise further testing on pipes and water susceptible areas (such as the bathroom and laundry) after more frequent use has occurred.

## **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:**

This is not a report by a licensed plumber or electrician. We recommend a special-purpose

report to detect substandard or illegal plumbing and electrical work at the Property

**This is not a smoke alarm report.** We recommend all existing detectors in the Property be tested and advice sought as to the suitability of number, placement and operation.

**This is not an asbestos report.** There are potential products in the Property containing asbestos that will not be identified in this report. In order to accurately identify asbestos, we recommend performing an asbestos inspection, particularly for buildings built prior to 1988.

**This is not a report on safety glass.** Glazing in older homes may not reflect current standards and may cause significant injury if damaged. Exercise caution around the glass in older homes.

This is not a report on window opening restrictions. We have not inspected window opening restrictors. Window openings in older buildings may not reflect current standards and can be a potential risk. Window opening restrictors are advised for all second story or above windows with sill heights below 900mm. Some states make this a mandatory requirement. Owners should enquire of their local and state requirements to ensure compliance.

This is not a report on pool safety. If a swimming pool is present it should be the subject to a special purpose pool inspection.

**External Timber Structures - Balcony and Decks.** It is strongly recommended that a Structural Engineer is required to assess distributed load capacity of external timber structures such as balconies and decks, alerting users of the load capacity. Regular maintenance and inspections by competent practitioners to assess the ongoing durability of exposed external timber structures are needed.

**This is not a Group Titled Property Report as per AS4349.2.** If you require a report for a Group Titled Property as per this standard, please seek a separate inspection for Group Titled Properties.

### **MOISTURE**

The identification of moisture, dampness or the evidence of water penetration is dependent on the weather conditions at the time an inspection. The absence of dampness identified in this Report does not necessarily mean the Property will not experience some damp problems in other weather conditions or that roofs, walls or wet areas are watertight.

Where the evidence of water penetration is identified we recommend detailed investigation of waterproofing in the surrounding area monitoring of the affected area over a period of time to fully detect and assess the cause of dampness.

#### MAINTENANCE OF THE PROPERTY

This Report is not a warranty or an insurance policy against problems developing with the Property in the future. Accordingly, a preventative maintenance program should be implemented which includes systematic inspections, detection and prevention of issues. Please contact the inspector who carried out this inspection for further advice.

It is strongly advised that appropriate steps be taken to remove, rectify or monitor any evidence of

conditions conducive to timber pest activity. Undertaking thorough regular inspections at intervals not exceeding twelve months (or more frequent inspections where the risk of timber pest attack is high or the building type is susceptible to attack). To further reduce the risk of subterranean termite attack, implement a management program in accordance with Australian Standard AS3660. This may include the installation of a monitoring and/or baiting system, or chemical and/or physical barrier. However, AS3660 stresses that subterranean termites can bridge or breach barrier systems and inspection zones and those thorough regular inspections of the building are necessary.

#### **NO CERTIFICATION**

- a) The Property has been compared to others of a similar age, construction type and method that had an acceptable level of basic maintenance completed.
- b) We don't advise you about title, ownership or other legal matters like easements, restrictions, covenants and planning laws. None of our inspections constitutes approval by a Building Surveyor, a certificate of occupancy or compliance with any law, regulation or standard, including any comment on whether the Property complies with current Australian Standards, Building Regulations or other legislative requirements.

#### **RECTIFICATION COSTS**

We don't provide advice on the costs of rectification or repair unless specifically identified in the scope of the Report. Any cost advice provided verbally or in this report must be taken as of a general nature and is not to be relied on. Actual costs depend on the quality of materials, the standard of work, what price a contractor is prepared to do the work for and may be contingent on approvals, delays and unknown factors associated with third parties. No liability is accepted for costing advice.