

# Fungi Attack

## Introduction

- Fungi are plants that live off the cells of wood.
- Over time cells lose its strength and weight and eventually decay.

### \*\*Fungi need certain condition to live on the wood

- Dampness moisture content above 20%
- Warmth
- Stagnant still air
- Food source (timber)
- Spores



## Two types of wood destroying fungi;

1. Dry rot
2. Wet rot

## Non-wood destroying fungi

1. Sap stain



## DRY ROT

MC above 22%



## WET ROT

MC above 30%





## Dry Rot

- Most damaging form of fungal attack
- Called dry rot because it leave the timber dry, powdery and in a brittle state.



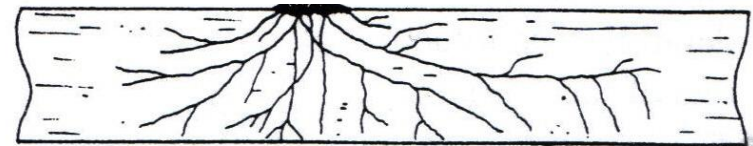
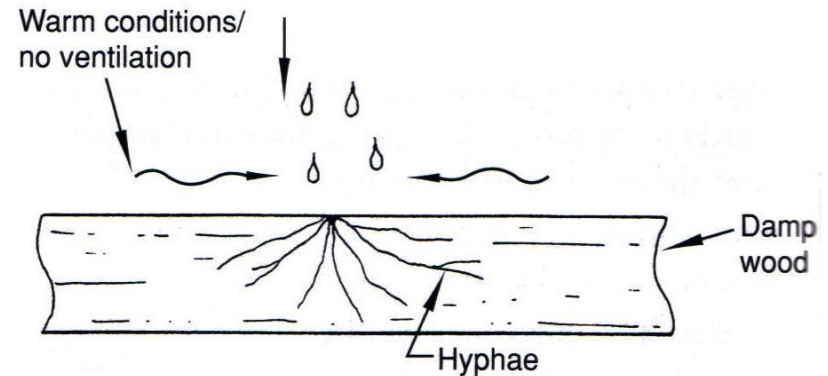
# How Dry Rot Develops

## Stage 1

- The **spores** or seeds are blown around by wind or carried by animals, insects or even humans.

## Stage 2

- Spores land on damp wood, germinate and send out hair-like roots called “**hyphae**”





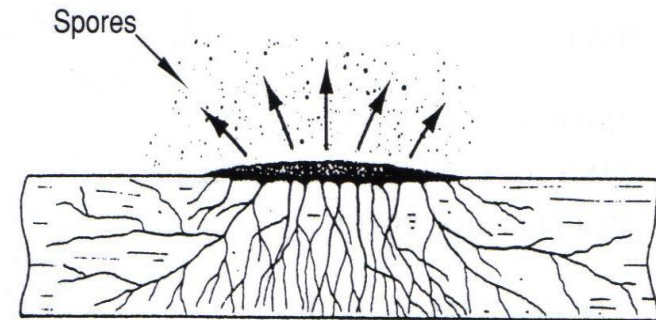
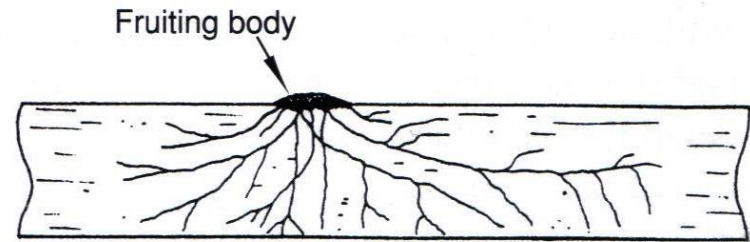
# How Dry Rot Develops

## Stages 3

- When established the fruiting body is wrinkled and pancake-shaped, with a white border and orange-brown centre.

## Stages 4

- When fully ripe the fruiting body will discharge millions of red dust spores into the surrounding air.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47rQYoETWm4>



# \*\*\*Prevention and treatment of Dry Rot

## Prevention

- Keep moisture content below 20%
- Keep area well ventilated
- Apply preservative- more in next topic

## \*\*\*Treatment\*\*\*

- Cut away all affected timber.(650mm from infection)
- Flame surrounding concrete
- Apply (KW) fungicides(usually done by specialists)



## Wet rot

- Only occurs in timber that is actually wet (MC 30% or more)

### How it develops

- Same as dry rot except it does not produce fruiting bodies.
- Lands on timber and uses any dampness present to germinate.
- Destroys the timber completely



# \*\*\*Prevention and treatment of Wet Rot

## Prevention

- Preserve timber in contact with the ground using prolonged immersion preservatives.  
(\*more on preservatives later).

## Treatment

- Cut back affected timber
- Apply three coats of *fungicidal* wood preservative
- Finish wood with a water-repellent finish.