

Protecting Historic Casa Grandview

Nordic Pest Control uses the Advance® Termite Bait System (ATBS) in South Florida.

Casa Grandview is a tropical oasis located in the middle of West Palm Beach, Florida. Pull through the hedges at the entrance of this hidden vacation destination and the grounds open up to reveal eight cottages nestled among lush landscaping and magnificent views.

The cottages at Casa Grandview, built in the 1920s, have been painstakingly restored and turned into luxury vacation rentals. The property is located in the Grandview Heights Historic District, which is on the Florida Register of Historic Places. And despite the feeling of being in tropical seclusion, Casa Grandview is just minutes away from beaches and the many popular destinations in West Palm Beach.

One might assume that the biggest concern for the property owners, Kirk and Cheryl Grantham, is the weather – the hurricanes and tropical storms that can wreak havoc on south Florida. But the Granthams,

who own 11 properties in the area and live on-site at Casa Grandview, say that pest control – specifically termite control – is actually the bigger threat.

“We’ve seen what termites can do, and we love historic properties so we are not about to let termites threaten all the work we put into restoration – especially when their damage can be prevented,” Cheryl Grantham explains.

When the Granthams purchased the property, there was an existing termite bond on the structures. But being experienced property owners, they realized that the bond did not cover the most damaging species – subterranean termites.

At about the same time, the Granthams met Chris Chardt of Nordic Pest Control at a cocktail party being held at Casa Grandview. Chardt and Nordic Pest Control Co-Owner Martin Mannion were enamored by the property, and the Granthams were



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Pest Management In Action

impressed by the company's genuine interest in helping preserve the house and cottages. A deal was struck.

Nordic Pest Control had used other bait treatments in the past, but found that other bait systems in the past had bait issues. The dual-stage approach used in the Advance Termite Bait System (ATBS) from Whitmire Micro-Gen changed Chardt and Mannion's minds. Since its introduction, Nordic Pest Control has converted all of his existing bait customers to the ATBS system. Chardt mentioned the success Nordic Pest Control was having with ATBS, and Grantham, who had heard about ATBS, says she was convinced once she was shown the bait stations and how they work.

"It was a detailed discussion, but ATBS was easy to understand," Grantham says. "It was particularly appealing to me because it is a preventative measure, and it gives us enormous peace of mind knowing that the stations are inspected quarterly." More than 70 stations now protect the house and eight cottages on the grounds.

Since the cottages are inhabited most of the time, Grantham says it was critical that the installation not be disruptive to guests. Since ATBS does not require



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"We certainly didn't want to wind up with repair bills," she says. Grantham adds that they have four "well-loved" dogs that don't pay any attention to the stations since they are buried in the ground – something the couple was initially concerned about. "It was a completely painless installation."

For their part, Chardt and Mannion say they get tremendous satisfaction out of working on a historic property like Casa Grandview. "I'm protecting it from potential damage and protecting the environment as well. But I also feel that I am protecting a part of Florida history," Chardt says.

Grantham encourages other homeowners and property owners who are in the midst of a restoration effort to make sure they include long-term termite protection in their plans.

"When you look at the potential risk and the stakes involved, termite protection should be essential," she says. "If you love historic properties, you need this kind of protection."