

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

July 2011



Happy 4th Of July!

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(949) 631-7348

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How To Control Ants

In September of 2010, the National Pest Management Association conducted a survey and the results showed that ants are the number one nuisance pest in the United States. More than 1,000 homeowners participated in the survey and 54 percent of respondents named ants as their top pest concern.

Why are ants such a big problem and why do so many home and business owners have such a hard time controlling them? One of the main reasons is because most people don't really understand the basic biology and behavior of ants. In this article, we'd like for you to learn some of these basics so you can keep your home or business free of ants this summer.

Ants 101

Ants are a member of the family of insects, known as "hymenoptera". Bees and wasps are also members of that same family. There are over 12,000 species of ants world wide. In California, we have about 200 species but less than a dozen are considered to be pests.

You should keep in mind that ants readily adapt to changes in conditions. If the weather changes, their food supply is altered or if something is moved around – They will adapt, keep on working and building their families.

Another important fact is that many ant colonies will merge with other colonies. For example, let's say you find an ant hill and destroy it. Yes, some of the ants will die, but the others will simply move in and start living with

another colony next door. No wonder these pests are so frustrating to deal with!

NOTE:

- Ants don't like living indoors. They just come in to get what they need and then leave.
- You need to find out how the ants are getting inside.
- Sealing up their entry points is the best control method.

If you are having a problem with ants on the inside, the first thing you should do is to start by inspecting the rooms where the ants are. Pay extra attention to areas under the edges of your carpet because it is common to find ants foraging in these areas. Look carefully along baseboards and bottoms or edges of cabinets. A spatula is a great tool to use when inspecting tiny cracks, joints or seams.

Ants use pheromones to lay out trails. These connect to their colony. The primary function of these trails is to lead the ants to food.

Don't Manage Ant Trails!

It is very common to see people spray down trails of ants with their favorite store bought product. This usually doesn't work. Yes, you'll maybe kill off **1 percent** of the ants by spraying down their trails. But, the rest of the ants will simply start taking a detour around the areas where you sprayed and you will still have an ant problem.

You'll find most ants are entering your home or

(Turn the page)

Celebrating July As National Hot Dog Month!

- During peak season, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Americans will consume over 7 billion hot dogs! That is over 818 hot dogs per second!

Famous Quote From Walt Disney!

"We are not trying to entertain the critics. I'll take my chances with the public."

Disneyland opened July 17th, 1955

Rave Reviews!

I am writing to let you know that during the last twelve months, the reliability report that we publish on Termite Terry has had 630 inquiries and reflects 0 complaints. In most cases, these report viewings are done by potential customers who are checking on your company's rating. Companies like yours are what the BBB stands for. We congratulate you on having no complaints to date. We also applaud you on your TrustLink storefront (www.trustlink.org), which reflects an additional 384 page views and positive comments.

Being in the Better Business Bureau places you with an elite group of companies whom the public trust. Again, thank you for your support of our mission!

Vincent L Gottuso
President/CEO
Better Business Bureau

Ryan and Jose provided excellent service inspecting and then treating my home for subterranean termites. You did the drywood treatment a few months ago, too. I am impressed by your professional manners, extensive knowledge and patience in answering all my questions including questions from my daughter. It sure feels good to know that I have a reliable specialist helping me to secure my house from being eaten by termites.

Vern Boyd,
Fullerton

I am writing you regarding the subterranean termite job done by two of your workers. Saul and Jose did a wonderful job, they were polite, did excellent work and cleaned up the room after the job was finished. I am happy with their work. Skip deserves a lot of credit for getting the contract. It is the trust he builds with customers.

Jagdev Sangha
Buena Park

business from points on the exterior. Look for areas where you see cracks in the foundation, holes in walls, cracks in the slab and points where wires and pipes enter the structure. Also, pay special attention to areas where plants or trees are touching the house. You should also look under mulch, firewood and stored items/clutter.

You'll note that in the previous paragraph, we told you to pay special attention to plants or trees that are touching your structure. The reason this is so important is because so many of these plants are infested with aphids, mealy bugs, white flies and scales – All of which produce honeydew. Honeydew is a sugary-sweet, sticky liquid these plant infesting plants pests secrete and it is a favorite food of many ant species.

So, think of it this way; **if you have a candy factory (plants and trees with honeydew) growing next to your structure, you are always going to have an ant problem.** The ants will find it to be simply irresistible! That is why it is so important to keep plants cut back - away from your structure.

If your plants are infested, you should really consider using a product that will help to control these pests, such as a **systemic insecticide**. These products are applied by drenching or injecting the soil beneath the plants. The plants will absorb these products and then, when plant infesting pests start eating your plants, they will ingest these products and die off. That will significantly reduce the amount of honeydew. And, with less food to eat, the populations of ants will then begin to dwindle.

How To Gain Control!

1. A thorough inspection is the first step. You need to find out how these pests are getting into your home or business. In most cases, you will find them coming in from the exterior. If you find cracks, holes or other openings where ants are gaining access, you need to seal off these entry points.
2. Identify the kind of ant you are dealing with. This is very important because there is no

single treatment plan that will work for all ant species. In fact, if you perform the wrong treatment or use an incorrect product, you can easily make your problems even worse.

3. Determine why the ants are attracted to the area. Is it because you have an excessive moisture problem? Is it because you have a food source problem, such as a honey dew infested plants? Once you have figured out why they like the area so much, you need to correct the problem. By doing this, you will reduce the amounts of insecticides needed to gain control and greatly improve your results.
4. Perform a treatment using the least toxic and the lowest amounts of insecticides possible. We strongly recommend using non repellent products because they are "stealth like" and won't cause ants to scatter or spread out to other areas (Ants can't detect these products and won't know they've been exposed until it's too late). Always read and follow the manufacture's instructions, carefully.
5. Evaluate your results. You're not always going to get perfect results on your first effort. Ants are very persistent and you may have to perform additional treatments.

Keep in mind that today's pesticides are designed to breakdown after only 30 to 60 days. That is why we recommend that pest control services be done on either a monthly or every other month basis.

Are you having a problem with ants or other pests and need help? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we'll schedule a Pest Audit for you. And please remember that our Pest Audits are always **FREE** for qualified home and business owners.

10 Million Rupees Devoured By Termites In An Indian Bank Vault!

The police in India are performing an investigation after termites allegedly broke into a bank's vault and devoured 10 million rupees (\$222,000) of currency. The bank's staff members were horrified when they opened the vault door and found the money had all been eaten up. An infestation of termites is being blamed for the destroyed currency, however, the police have not ruled out foul play.



The bank's manager, J.P. Dived, said the building housing the vault is old and riddled with termites. "We have been trying our best to keep currency notes safe but the termite problem here is so enormous that it would be better to move the branch elsewhere."

Nanette Rama, a police spokesman, said termites had previously damaged bank furniture and documents. "It's a matter of investigation how termites attacked bundles of currency notes stacked in a steel chest," he told the Associated Press. He also said that police had registered a case of negligence by bank officials over the destruction.

Do you have a termite problem at your home or business? Well, before they started eating all of the money out of your purse or wallet, call our office at (949) 631-7348 for a termite inspection! Inspections are FREE for qualified home and business owners.

Bats Save Agriculture \$3 Billion a Year!

Insect eating bats save the U.S. agriculture industry \$3 billion a year in pest control service. But, according to a recent edition of Science magazine, these bats are among the most overlooked economically important, non-domesticated animals in North America.

"People often ask why we should care about bats," said Paul Cryan, a U.S. Geological Survey research scientist and one of the study's authors. "This analysis suggests that bats are saving us big bucks by gobbling up insects that eat or damage crops. It is obviously beneficial that insectivorous bats are patrolling the skies at night above our fields and forest – these bats deserve help."

Scientists from University of Pretoria (South Africa), USGS, University of Tennessee and Boston University authored the study. The estimated value of pest control services provided by bats in the U.S. ranges from \$3.7 billion to \$53 billion per year.

Scientists are concerned that North American agriculture could see noticeable economic losses in the next four to five years because of emerging threats to bat populations. Losses could be substantial in the Midwest and Great Plains where wind energy development is booming (Many bats are dying when they collide with wind turbines). A disease, called "white-nose syndrome", has also been spreading throughout these areas and is causing a large number of losses.

Betsy Ross And The First American Flag

Betsy would often sit down with her children, grandchildren, relatives and friends and share the story of how three members of a secret committee from the Continental Congress came to visit. They asked her to sew the first flag. Those representatives were George Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross. George Washington was head of the Continental Army. Robert Morris may have been the wealthiest citizen in the Colonies because he owned vast amounts of land. Colonel George Ross, a respected Philadelphian, was the uncle of Betsy's late husband.

Betsy was a widow who was in the upholstery business. Times were tough in 1776 and she was struggling to make ends meet. In those days, upholsterers not only worked on furniture but did all kinds of sewing work. She had previously embroidered ruffles on George Washington's shirt bosoms and cuffs, so that may have been a part of the reason she was chosen to make the first flag.

General Washington showed her a rough drawing of the flag that included a six pointed star. Betsy was quite handy with a pair of scissors and she demonstrated how she could cut a five pointed star in a single snip. The committee was impressed and they gave her the job.

The flag was finished in May or early June of 1776. In July, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud for the first time at Independence Hall. Bells rang and there was celebration throughout the city as they heralded the birth of a new nation.

Many died in battle before the United States could sever all ties with Great Britain. On June 14th, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the national flag. "Resolved that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

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Full Line of Pest Control Service || Termite Fumigations and Treatments || Dryrot and Termite Damage Repairs

****At Termite Terry, We'll Get Rid Of All Your Termites Or Your Treatment Is FREEEEEE!!****

Stung By Surprise On Monday Morning!

It was a typical Monday morning in Costa Mesa and it was time to go back to work. But, when the owner opened the door on his pick-up and got inside, he was **stung by surprise**. There were bees swarming around the interior of his truck!

The owner of the truck called and our pest control specialist, David Salamin, rushed over to help. After checking, David discovered that the owner had parked his truck next to an orange tree and over the weekend, the bees had built a hive in his truck.

Solving a problem like this can be tricky. The hive and most of the bees were between the door and the truck's body. He didn't want to open the door and drive them all inside. Also, he didn't want to spray down the truck and expose all of its' passengers to insecticide everyday. So, after some quick thinking, he pulled out a can of natural pyrethrum (made from chrysanthemum flowers), taped up the door, got a nail and punctured a small hole in the tape. Then, he inserted the "needle" like spray tube from the can and pulled the trigger. The bees started roaring loudly and caused the door to vibrate. But, the roar only lasted a couple of minutes before it died down to complete silence. When David opened the door, a huge pile of bees fell to the ground. The owner of the truck was left speechless – He couldn't believe there were so many bees and that they could build a hive so large in only one weekend.

"Termite" Terry wants to remind everyone that it is bee season and if you have a problem, don't ignore it. He says that bees are hard workers and if you let them go, they can create a monstrous bee hive in a very short amount of time. Do you have a bee problem at your home or business? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we'll be glad to help. Meanwhile, **"Bee Careful!"**



"Termite" Terry Singleton