

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

October 2012



Happy Halloween!

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Bed Bug Bombs: Trick or Treat?

Over the past decade, bed bugs have become a horrible problem in the United States. Bed bugs are temporary ectoparasites that feed exclusively on blood from humans and other warm blooded animals. They are nocturnal and like to live in cracks and crevices. If you have a problem with bed bugs in a home, you'll usually find them located in mattresses and headboards. That is because they like living near their hosts so they don't have to go very far for a "blood meal" (Eew!).

"Bug Bombs" (total-release foggers) are being marketed for the control of many types of crawling and flying insects. These are commonly available to the public in many different stores. In 2010, the EPA estimated that **50 million** of these foggers are used in the U.S., annually. Consumers often use these bug bombs as a low-cost alternative to professional pest control services.

Read the product labels and you'll find that most bug bombs contain pyrethrins, pyrethroids, or both as active ingredients. Bug bombs have an aerosol propellant and act by broadcasting an insecticide mist throughout a room.

To use one of these bug bombs, the directions will tell you to shake the can and position it on a table or stand in the center of a room. You activate it by depressing or removing a tab, located on top of the can. Everyone and their pets need to vacate the area during the treatment, which usually takes 2 hours. The aerosol insecticide droplets are rapidly released upwards into the airspace and

will gradually settle onto exposed surfaces.

Bug bombs are not generally recommended for control of house hold pests for these reasons:

1. They **do not penetrate** well into pest harborage sites where insects hide.
2. The broadcast/fogging application **leaves pesticide residue** on exposed surfaces and objects (Yucky!).
3. They contain aerosol propellants that may be **flammable**, such as butane or propane (Every year, a lot of homes catch fire or are blown up by these devices!)

There is no published data regarding the efficacy of bug bombs against bed bugs. The only studies that were available pertained to the German roach and the cat flea. That is why the researchers at the University of Ohio decided to evaluate these bug bombs against recently collected bed bugs as well as a long term laboratory strain (these were originally collected from Ft. Dix, New Jersey in 1973) to gain insights into the efficacy of these over the counter products.

The study was conducted in three rooms in a vacant office building, located on the Ohio State University campus. Three brands of over the counter bug bombs were used in the study and all purchased from a nationwide retailer.

Five populations of bed bugs were collected from

(turn the page)

50 Years Ago . . .

The Beatles had their first hit song, "Love Me Do", released on October 5th, 1962. They went on to become one of the most commercially successful acts in the history of music with over one billion units sold!

Famous Quote From John Wooden!

"Ability is a poor man's wealth"

The legendary coach with 10 NCAA basketball titles at UCLA, born October 14th, 1910

Rave Reviews!

"My experience with Termite Terry was fantastic from the get-go. I initially contacted the company through its online contact form and received a very timely response (in my experience, online contact forms are sometimes a black hole). I called the technician, DJ, who was already expecting my call, and he was able to answer my questions, provide some guidance about my black widow issue, and accommodate my scheduling needs. On the day of service, DJ arrived on time and thoroughly explained the process and answered my questions regarding traditional products vs. green and organic products (which was one of the reasons I contacted Termite Terry initially). I chose to go with the traditional product for this one-time service since my highest priority was to get rid of the widows, but he educated me on options to use green/organic products for maintenance going forward. There was no sales pressure, no pitch, which I really appreciated! I felt very confident in his expertise and ability to do a good job. DJ performed the services quickly and thoroughly, and I am happy to say that there have been no signs of live black widows since the service! And as an added bonus, a small ant problem is gone, too! Thank you Termite Terry for employing such conscientious, professional, and knowledgeable technicians. I will be referring friends and family for sure!"

Amy Abeling
Irvine, Calif.

"I had a huge bees nest in my yard and D.J. (David Salamin) quickly removed it and was very thorough and professional. He came out on time, gave me a complete diagnoses of the problem and got right to work! I would definitely recommend Termite Terry for any pest control problem!"

Ellen Fischer
Huntington Beach

residences in Columbus, Ohio. They used these because they wanted to study the effects of bed bug bombs on the real types of bed bugs that we all have to deal with on a daily basis.

It is a pretty well known fact that many of our "current" insect populations have become immune to pyrethrins and pyrethroids over the past couple of decades (Pyrethrins are derived from chrysanthemum flowers. Pyrethroids are man made/synthesized versions of pyrethrins). And, since these products are no longer as effective as they used to be, the researcher tested these products on a "pyrethroid-susceptible" population which was collected back in 1973. These were named the "Harlan" strain.

During the tests, bed bugs were either placed in open petri dishes, or in petri dishes provisioned with a paper disc so that the bed bugs could hide under it for protection.

The Results:

Field collected bed bugs showed **little, if any, adverse effects** after 2 hours of direct exposure to these 3 products. The only exception was one of the field collected populations which had significant mortality (after 5-7 days) when they were left out in the open and were exposed to one certain brand of product. However, this particular product was **not effective** on this same population if the bed bugs were able to hide under a paper disc.

Even the "Harlan" strain, which is susceptible to pyrethroids, was **unaffected** if the bed bugs were covered with a thin layer of cloth.

Ohio State's study provides the first scientific data supporting the position that bed bug bombs **should not** be recommended for control of bed bugs. The study also provides strong evidence that these 3 major brands of bug bombs **are ineffective** as bed bug control agents.

Termite Terry says, "**Bed bugs are by far and away, the most difficult pest that we have to deal with today.** If you have a problem with these pests, this is no time to fool around

with "do-it-yourself" products. If you needed surgery, you wouldn't go online and try doing that yourself, would you? Well, bed bugs should be taken just as seriously. That is because if you let these pests become established, you are going to inherit yourself a gory nightmare."

Do you have a problem with bed bugs? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we'll schedule a thorough inspection for you. Please note that we do charge for these inspections because they are so labor intensive. However, if you do need service, we will be happy to apply the inspection fee toward the costs of your treatment.

We also wanted to remind everyone that Termite Terry has written a special report titled "**Everything You Need To Know About Bed Bugs**". This normally sells for \$29.95, but all friends and customers of Termite Terry Pest Control can log on at www.termiteterry.com and download their own copy, **FREE!**

The next time you're at a store and one of the clerks suggests that you use one of these bug bombs, please say, "**Trick or Treat!**" ☺

The Outbreak Of West Nile Virus

The federal Centers for Disease Control is saying that the United States is experiencing one of the largest outbreaks of West Nile virus in history. Over 1,100 cases of the mosquito-borne disease have been reported, as of August 2012, and that is the highest number reported since the disease was first detected in the US in 1999.

"If cases continue to grow at this pace, the West Nile outbreak could be the largest ever in the United States", said Dr. Lyle Petersen, director of the CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases.

41 people have died from West Nile infections. Another 630 people have developed the rare neuroinvasive form of the disease,

which affects the nervous system. Some other victims have contracted what doctors call West Nile fever. This is a condition that can cause fever, headache, body aches, nausea and vomiting.

Recently, a woman in Studio City discovered she had West Nile when she tried donating blood. She is blaming a fetid swimming pool at a foreclosed home next door for her case of West Nile.

An Antelope Valley resident and a 24 year old woman from Fontana were also reportedly hospitalized after being diagnosed with West Nile virus.

On August 15th, 2012, the Kern County Public Health Services Department announced the death of one of their residents. The 88 year old female was confirmed with West Nile virus disease.

The CDC believes that our mild winter, early spring and very hot summer have fostered the breeding of mosquitoes. Mosquitoes pick up the virus from birds they bite and then spread it to people.

“Termite” Terry wants to remind everyone that the best way to prevent West Nile is to avoid mosquito bites. If you’re going to be outdoors and you suspect there may be mosquitoes in the area, do yourself a favor and use an insect repellent. “Termite” Terry recommends “Off Insect Repellent” or “Deep woods Insect Repellent”, which are made by S.C. Johnson. Both have been studied by the CDC and provide proven results.

You should also wear long sleeved shirts and pants when you are outdoors. Wear socks and shoes, too.

You should also check the screens on your doors and windows. If they are damaged, they should be repaired or replaced.

Experts recommend that you look around your home and eliminate any standing water which may attract

mosquitoes. And, if you know of a home with a dirty, unmaintained swimming pool, call the Orange County Vector Control Department and report it. Please remember that your call may save someone’s life.

The President’s Economic Stimulus

The political campaigns are in full swing as everyone looks toward November’s elections. President Termite Terry is out on the campaign trail reminding everyone of his successful economic stimulus plan. Here are some of the latest results of his amazing plan:

- John Le of Garden Grove referred us to Minh Le of Garden Grove.
- Joyce Farmer of Laguna Beach recommended our services to Mary Claire Tureaud of Santa Ana.
- Jarold Owen of Huntington Beach referred us to Van Ong of Irvine.
- Ron Herzig of Huntington Beach recommended us to Tammy Mai of Fountain Valley.

These fine citizens all received a **FREE \$50.00 Gas Card** for participating in the President’s Economic Stimulus Plan.

To participate yourself, all you have to do is refer us to anyone you know or meet who needs a termite treatment, wood damage repairs or a monthly or bi-monthly pest control service. And, if they become a member of our service program, you will receive a **FREE \$50.00 Gas Card**, too!

Don’t Forget To Vote!

The Story Of Columbus Day

Christopher Columbus was born in 1451 in Genoa, Italy. His parents were a wool merchant and weaver. Columbus started sailing at the age of 14.

In 1470, he was involved in a shipwreck off the coast of Portugal. He managed to swim ashore and settled there briefly. Later, he moved to Spain.

His discovery of America was a combination of pure accident, his big ego and the fact that he grossly underestimated the distance between Europe and the East Indies. He had estimated the distance at 2,500 miles. The distance was actually 10,000 miles.

On August 3rd, 1492, he set sail at the age of 46. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, of Spain, financed the trip. They were hoping he would bring back spices from the East Indies.

Columbus had no idea that there was a huge landmass between Europe and the East Indies. After being at sea for two months, he landed on an island in the Bahamas on October 12, 1492.

He was greeted by the Arawak Indians after he landed. Unfortunately, they had no spices, gold or anything worth bringing back to Spain.

Columbus was very disappointed, but he continued to sail. Over a 9 year period, he made 3 more voyages and he was credited for discovering Dominica, Jamaica, Trinidad and the mouth of the Orinoco River on the South American mainland. On his 4th and final voyage, he made it down to the Isthmus of Panama.

After he returned to Spain in 1504, Queen Isabella died. Without her, he had no means of support. Two years later, Columbus died in poverty.

The first Columbus Day celebration took place in New York City on the 300th anniversary of Columbus’ first voyage. In 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt officially proclaimed every October 12th as Columbus Day. In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed a law making the second Monday in October a federal holiday.

“Termite” Terry’s Insider Information is Published by:

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"D.J." Is Stumped During A Pest Investigation

If you've ever been in a house or building with a dead rat in the wall, you know how bad it smells. Just recently, we got a call about an office with exactly that problem. Their property manager had already had his pest guy come out a day or two earlier, but he could not find where the problem was located. One of the building's tenants had previously worked with "D.J." (David Salamin, our star pest control specialist) and he asked for the property manager to call him for help.

"D.J." went out there and spent over two hours looking for this rat. Unfortunately, he was stumped and couldn't find it. That is when "D.J." called me for help. I had never seen this place, so I couldn't give an exact answer on where to look. Instead, I reminded him of some of the basics and suggested he look in other areas.

He went back to investigating these new areas on the interior that I suggested. As he searched around the inside of the office, he started noticing that the smell was starting to get stronger. He followed the scent with his nose until he tracked it down to the boss's desk. He looked around the desk and couldn't see a dead rat anywhere. He kept looking and then, he found where the smell was coming from; It was coming from a can of dog food, which was slightly cracked open and sitting right behind the boss's phone!

In hind sight, this story is actually hilarious! Can you imagine sitting at your desk for several days and not notice that "smelly" can of dog food?? Why would that can of dog food smell like a dead rat? Well, that's pretty simple because the dog food is basically ground up animal flesh of one type or another.

The good news is that "D.J." was able to figure it out. He has turned out to be a pretty good investigator. Maybe I should loan him my "Columbo" trench coat and buy him a cigar! ☺



Termite Terry as
"Columbo"