

“TERMITE” TERRY’S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

February 2013



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(949) 631-7348

“Home of Your Ironclad, Money-Back Guarantee”

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Subterranean Termites Attack Orange County!

Orange County home owners are coming home after a hard day at work, only to find thousands of flying termites attacking their home. Many of these homeowners are so frightened by the experience of seeing termites flying around on the inside of their house that they are afraid to even go inside!

February, March and April are when subterranean termites swarm. This is part of their mating ritual. On a sunny day in the spring, particularly after a rain, the young kings and queens will take off on their *honeymoon* flight.

The first thing you’ll notice about these termites is that they look like *flying ants*. Their bodies are almost black and are about ¼ inch long. There are two easy ways to tell the difference between a termite and an ant:

1. A termite has only two body parts – a head and an abdomen. An ant has three body parts and a distinctive *constricted waist* between its thorax and abdomen.
2. A termite has two large pairs of wings that are almost twice the length of its body. An ant has two pairs of wings that are not equal in length and the wings are much shorter than the length of its body.

These swarming termites are young kings and queens. Look close and you’ll notice they are radically different than the “*whitish*” worker termites which almost look like “*six legged maggots*”. Worker termites are blind and all they do is eat wood 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

When the conditions are right, the young kings and

queens burst out of their nest and begin their short flight. They often follow the prevailing breeze because they are poor fliers. Some break off their wings while still in flight and spiral down to the earth. Others may land and then remove their wings. These kings and queens are not attracted to one another until their wings have been clipped off. They have a very high mortality rate of 97% and only about 3% survive.

Once a king finds a queen to mate with, he follows her around until she finds a place to call home. Perhaps they will do this by excavating a small cell in moist ground, under wood. About a week later, they will mate and the male will stay with her for the rest of his life. The queen may survive up to 25 years and lay as many as 60,000 eggs!

Many homeowners don’t know they have a subterranean termite problem until they see these swarmers in their home. Most homeowners won’t appreciate finding these swarmers in their house but it can actually be a very good thing. Otherwise, they may never know they have a problem until the subterranean termites have done significant damage to the structure.

A Homeowner’s Nightmare!

“Termite” Terry will never forget one home we treated in our area. The homeowner decided it was time to install new carpet in his house. When he pulled out the old carpet, (turn the page)

February Is African American History Month!

Louis Armstrong bought his first coronet at the age of 7 with borrowed money. He taught himself to play while living in a home for juvenile delinquents. Armstrong went on to become a legendary musician and his music will be enjoyed for many generations to come.

Celebrating Lincoln’s Birthday

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”

Abraham Lincoln, born February 12th, 1863

Rave Reviews!

"We had our house tented last week and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your excellent service.

We entered this experience with trepidation. Is it safe? How long will we need to vacate our home? How will we protect everything properly? How much work will it be?

A very nice gentleman, named Skip Haffke, visited us two days prior to the tenting and spent over an hour explaining the procedure in an unhurried manner. He did a walk through of our home checking various items needing attention and climbed up into our tiny attic crawl hole to check the attic fan.

On the day of the tenting, he disconnected the fan and reconnected it upon finishing the job. He patiently spent time showing us what needed to be bagged and how to accomplish this.

The job was finished on time and perfectly executed with no mishaps. Your operation seems top-notch and I highly recommend your company to anyone in the market for this service."

Bill and Ann Stoner
Fountain Valley

"Over the years, we've electrocuted the termites, had them sprayed with various solutions, and tented our house. Termite Terry was wonderfully thorough – they inspected the house from top to bottom, gave us a list of what needed to be packed with how and why, came in before the fumigators to make sure we didn't miss anything, and left us a message that was waiting for us when we got home. We found them on Angie's List and thought they were WONDERFUL. Thank you so much!"

Jen K.
Cerritos

he noticed the carpet tack strip and baseboards were badly damaged. He didn't think it was a big deal and proceeded to replace them. But, once he started trying to nail on the new baseboards, he noticed that whole wall started moving. He removed a portion of the drywall and found that the wall studs and sill plate were completely destroyed by the termites.

He called us to see if we could solve his termite problem. By the time we got there later that day, his contractor had the entire living room wall and ceiling opened up. **The whole backside of the house had to be supported with temporary post because it was ready to collapse!** Almost all of the wooden wall and ceiling members were wiped out.

Can you guess how expensive this kind of a repair job would be? Can you imagine how inconvenient and messy this was for the owner?

"You Can Pay Me Now, Or You Can Pay A Lot More Later"

"Termite" Terry talked to this owner and he admitted he had seen subterranean termite swarms in this very room, several years in a row. Had he taken care of this problem when he first saw the swarms, he may have been able to avoid this big mess and huge expense. That's right! **This homeowner may have been able to solve his problem for less than \$500! But now, he was going to have to pay many times that amount for repairs.**

If you ever see termite swarms in your home, don't ignore it. **Call us at (949) 631-7348** to perform a thorough inspection and we'll customize a treatment program for your home.

10 Ways You Can Help To Prevent Subterranean Termites

1. In new construction, use termite shields on foundations, piers and between wooden steps or porches and the main structure. Soil treatments should be performed prior to pouring of the foundation to prevent subterranean termites. Treatment of new wood members with borate solutions can also be

very effective in preventing both drywood and subterranean termite infestations.

2. Eliminate wood contact with the ground (e.g. by replacing wooden posts and piers with concrete ones and by supporting wooden steps on a concrete base at least 6 inches above the ground).
3. Regrade soil around the perimeter to ensure drainage away from the building and to maintain at least 6 inches clearance between wood siding or shingles and the ground.
4. Ensure there is at least 18 inches clearance in crawl spaces between all horizontal timbers and the ground.
5. Reduce humidity in crawl spaces by ensuring adequate cross-ventilation. Covering the ground with a plastic moisture barrier will reduce humidity under buildings by reducing evaporation from the soil.
6. Remove any wooden debris which might become a source of infestation beneath the building, including scrap wood, form boards, old tree roots, and even sawdust.
7. Fill any crevices or voids where they might help subterranean termites move from the ground to the wood in buildings, including foundation cracks, hollow blocks, gaps between stucco and the wall and crevices around pipework.
8. Remove infested stumps and trees near buildings.
9. Eliminate sources of excess moisture such as plumbing and roof leaks. Make sure sprinklers are adjusted so they don't spray on the house.
10. Have your home inspected on an annual basis and if a problem is spotted, take care of it quickly.

Have a termite problem and need an inspection? **Call our office at (949)631-7348** to schedule an appointment at your convenience.

Galapagos Islands Rat Eradication

The Galapagos Islands have unique bird and reptile species and are a treasure for scientist and tourist. These must be preserved and that means that hundreds of millions of rats must die. This 19-island cluster is located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador.

Norway and black rats were introduced to the islands by whalers and buccaneers beginning in the 17th century. These rats feed on the eggs and hatchlings of the islands' native species, which include giant tortoises, lava lizards, snakes, hawks and iguanas. Rats have also depleted many plants on which the native species feed.

In the first phase of the anti-rat campaign, Rabida island and about a dozen islets were treated. These areas are uninhabited by humans.

In the second phase, a helicopter dropped nearly 22 tons of a specially designed poison bait on Pinzon island. Currently, they estimate there are over 180 million rodents on this island. That means that there is at least one rodent for every square foot of land on that island!

Their goal is to kill off all non-native rodents. They are starting with the smaller islands. Isabella and Santa Cruz islands are where humans reside and they will be treated last.

Bell Labs, of the United States, has developed a special bait for this project. These come in the form of light blue cubes. Rats are attracted to this bait but other inhabitants of the islands find them repulsive. The bait is designed to disintegrate within a week or so.

The Galapagos Islands were declared protected as a UNESCO Natural Heritage site in 1978. In 2007, they were declared at risk due

to harm from invasive species, tourism and immigration.

"Termite" Terry Wins The 2012 Super Service Award!

Termite Terry Pest Control has earned the service industry-coveted 2012 Angie's List Super Service Award, an honor awarded annually to approximately 5 percent of all the companies rated on Angie's List, the nation's leading provider of consumer reviews on local service companies.

"It's a select group of companies rated on Angie's List that can claim the exemplary customer service record of being a Super Service Award winner," said Angie's List Founder Angie Hicks. "Our standards for the Super Service Award are quite high. The fact that Termite Terry Pest Control earned this recognition speaks volumes about its dedication to providing great service to its customers."

Angie's List Super Service Award winners have met strict eligibility requirements, including earning a minimum number of reports, an excellent rating from their customers and abiding by Angie's List operational guidelines.

Service company ratings are updated daily on Angie's List. Companies are graded on an A through F scale in areas ranging from price to professionalism to punctuality. Members can find the 2012 Super Service Award logo next to the company names in search results on AngiesList.com.

Fun Facts About Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Day will be coming up soon, so we thought it would be fun to share some facts about this special day:

- More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.
- Back in the middle ages, young men and women would draw names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine. Then, they would wear this name pinned on their sleeve for a week for everyone to see. That is the origin of the expression "to wear your heart on your sleeve".
- Approximately 1 billion Valentine's cards will be sent out this year.
- Did you know that 50% of women will likely give the gift of chocolate to a guy for Valentine's Day? 68% of men say they prefer chocolate over flowers!
- 85% of Valentine's Day cards are purchased by women.
- Cupid was the son of Venus. She was the goddess of love and beauty.
- Esther Howland, of Massachusetts, is credited with selling the first mass produced Valentine's Day cards back in the 1840's. She had hoped to sell at least 200 dollars worth, but was stunned with more than \$5,000 in advanced orders. Advertising and word-of-mouth led to a \$100,000 per year business!
- 110 million roses will be sold in the U.S. for Valentine's Day. Men will purchase about 75% of the roses. Women purchase 15% of the roses to send to themselves.
- Restaurant sales for Valentine's Day should top 8.5 billion!

Alright guys, you still have plenty of time to do something nice for your lover. Don't forget you can order online if you're too busy to shop. And, if you're going to take that special person out for dinner, don't forget to make your reservations NOW!

Happy Valentine's Day!

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Your Treatment Is FREEEEEE!!****

Two Companies Busted For Selling Illegal Pesticides!

The EPA has recently busted two companies for selling unregistered pesticides. One is located in New Jersey and the other is in New York. Both are facing stiff penalties for violating federal pesticides law.

"When stores sell illegal pesticides, the health and safety of people are put at risk. Unless pesticide products are registered with the EPA and have the required EPA labels, they should not be sold. Store owners should protect the health of their customers and remove any unregistered pesticides from their shelves immediately", said Judith A. Enck of the EPA.

Pesticide manufacturers often spend millions of dollars to register a product. They have to provide data from tests conducted according to EPA guidelines to ensure that the product will not be harmful to people's health. The EPA examines the ingredients and the way in which the products will be used. They also assess a wide variety of potential human health and environmental effects associated with their usage.

Why do some companies try and skirt the law? If you guessed that they are trying to save a lot of money and time, you're probably right.

At Termite Terry Pest Control, we only use EPA registered products and we always try and use the least toxic products available. We are also very excited about some of the latest products because the EPA has categorized them as "offering minimal risk to humans and domestic animals".

Have a pest control problem? Please don't try and save a few bucks by buying these unregistered products. Better yet, why not call us for a **FREE Pest Audit**. You may find out that you need little if any insecticide to solve your pest problem!



"Termite" Terry Singleton