

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

April 2014



Happy Easter!

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(949) 631-7348

Inside This Issue...

- Accurate Wood Repair Estimates 1
- Rave Reviews! 2
- Farm-Fresh Paint? 2
- 10 Year Old Killed By Pet Rat! 3
- Fun Facts About The Masters 3
- Women Attacked By Bees! 4

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How To Get Accurate Wood Repair Estimates

Orange County homeowners are often shocked when they discover how much damage has been done to their homes by termites and dryrot. Even more shocking is when homeowners realize how quickly damage occurred.

Why are termites and dryrot such a problem in Orange County? One of the main reasons is that we have a mild climate. The optimum temperatures for termites range from 75 to 95 degrees. When exposed to temperatures of 100 degrees or more, termites may die within minutes.

The other big reason is moisture. Termites and fungus need moisture to survive and you can tell we have a lot of moisture in our air because on most mornings, you'll see water dripping off our roofs. If you go to a dry climate like they have in Palm Springs, you won't find anywhere near the amount of termite and dryrot damage we have here.

We have close to perfect conditions for termites and dryrot in Orange County. When you consider we have termites eating 24 hours a day and we have fungus causing dryrot damage all day and night, it is no wonder that many of our homes have significant damage and are in need of major repair.

Unfortunately, trying to get a good repair estimate can be very frustrating. You'll find prices varying wildly from one company to another. You'll also find it rare for two or more contractors to agree on what needs to be fixed and how repairs should be performed. It is no wonder that so many homeowners are confused!

To make your life easier and help take the risk out of making your decision, here are **Five Tips To Help You Get Your Best Wood Repair Bid Ever:**

1. Look for someone who specializes in dryrot and termite damage repairs. It is no different than going to a doctor – you wouldn't go to an eye doctor if you had a pain in your foot, would you? There are a large number of contractors in Orange County and many of them do wood-working. However, just because you can build furniture or even build a new house, it doesn't mean you know how to repair termite damage or dryrot on an existing structure. You really need to find a contractor who does this type of work everyday and knows the best techniques to use. Hiring the wrong type of contractor can be a disaster waiting to happen. Make sure your contractor is licensed, bonded, insured and that everyone on the crew is covered by Workers Compensation Insurance.
2. You need a thorough inspection. If your home has been neglected and has a lot of damage, it is going to take a lot of time to do an accurate estimate. The only way to do an accurate estimate is to check every piece of wood that you can get your hands on and inspect it for damage. This alone, could be the best kept secret for getting an accurate bid. In other words, if your home has a fair amount of damage and a contractor only spends a short time walking around your home

(turn the page)

50 Years Ago . . .

The Ford Motor Company launched the Ford Mustang at the New York World's Fair on April 17, 1964. It was the most successful launch of a new car since the Model A and over 8 million have been sold.

Celebrating Shirley Temple Black

"I stopped believing in Santa Clause when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph."

Shirley Temple Black, born April 23, 1928

Rave Reviews!

"I wanted to take a minute and let you know what a great job your guys did. I had wood damage to my house. Having spent a lot of years as a carpenter, I was going to repair it myself but decided to call you guys first.

The first person I met was Skip. It was clear to me that he understood how to repair the damage at my house and I got a very comfortable feeling dealing with him. He was very professional and I received a quote after a few days. The quote was acceptable and we scheduled the work.

Next I had the pleasure of meeting Jose and Saul. Their quality of work is outstanding. I even made change to what they were repairing mid stream and they and Skip handled it perfectly.

In my job I hire a lot of professionals and I can tell you, these guys are very good at what they do and it was a real pleasure working with them."

Jeff Weber
Orange

"Our condominium was recently fumigated by Termite Terry Pest Control and we have nothing but praise for your crew, especially Skip Haffke. Skip made the effort to attend our Board of Directors meeting explaining the whole fumigation process and assuring us of safety measures the company employs. Additionally, Skip met with most of our owners to cover necessary preparation.

On the day of the fumigation, not only did the crew arrive on time, but they took the time to wrap food items that some owners had forgotten; many of our units are vacation homes. The fumigation was completed promptly with Skip's crew making special efforts to spare vegetation close to our exterior walls. The condominium was ready to reoccupy on schedule and with Skip's personal assurance that the fumigant was properly dissipated.

Our association was very pleased with Termite Terry Pest Control's service. We would highly recommend their service to other associations."

Bruce H. Senft
Board President
Villa Del Mar Maintenance Corporation

- before giving you a quote, you know that bid cannot be taken seriously.
3. You should insist on a detailed estimate! What good is an estimate on the back of a business card? All you know from that is the price! When you get a bid, you need to know exactly what you're going to get for your money. Ask your estimator for a full list of materials so you'll know exactly how much will be replaced and what type of materials will be used. For larger projects, you should also ask for a sketch or drawing of your home so you'll know what and where all items will be repaired. This is really important when you're comparing bids because you want to make sure everyone has included the same items. If you see something on one bid but not on the other, that could be an important warning sign.
 4. Look for huge differences in prices and don't be afraid to ask why. You know everyone in this state pays roughly the same for gas, materials, insurance, rent and most workers are paid within a certain range. If there are wild differences in prices, you know there has got to be a reason. On low bids, you may find some items may have not been included. In some cases you'll find the contractor is not licensed, bonded and properly insured. You may also learn that the contractor doesn't have all of his crew covered by Workers Comp Insurance.
 5. Find a contractor who is highly recommended. Ask for referral letters and insist on looking at other homes he has repaired in your neighborhood. Ask him to help you get in touch with past clients so you can really find out what others think about his work. If a contractor has a good track record of satisfied clients, chances are you'll get a great repair job.

Everyone is concerned about price but you need to remember that price is a *one-time-thing*. If you pay a little more than you planned and wind up getting what you want, you'll soon forget about the extra money. However, if you hire someone just so you can save a few dollars and wind up losing everything because they did a bum job – you'll remember that forever! That is why we really encourage you to do your homework and always hire someone with a proven track record.

Need help with wood repairs, fixing termite damage or replacing dry rotted wood? Need an EPA Certified company to help you with work on a home built before 1978? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we'll gladly schedule an appointment at your convenience.

Farm-Fresh Paint?

Goat farmers in Pescadero, California, have introduced a paint they say is safe enough to lick from your fingers. Harley Farm's Paint is non-toxic, non-caustic and biodegradable. It is completely natural and contains no volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The ingredients of this paint are calcium carbonate, flax seed oil, water, milk protein (casein), goat milk soap, pigment and salt.

Milk paint is nothing new as its history goes back thousands of years. Ancient artwork found on the walls of caves and unearthed artifacts show the use of a form of milk paint on some of the oldest colored surfaces ever documented. This type of paint was used in the ancient pyramids of Egypt and the colors are still vibrant.

Harley Farm's Paint is available in nine colors and may be used on paintable surfaces, inside or outside. Use it to paint kitchens, bath & bedroom walls, cabinetry, indoor & outdoor furniture, art & frames, pottery, decks and fencing. It can be applied over wood, textured walls, concrete, plaster,

metal, clay, ceramics and canvas. It has the intense suede finish of antique furniture and fresco murals, and is more durable than latex paint.

Protective clothing is not needed – they suggest you wear a nice halter top and cut-off-shorts. Clean-up is easy with warm water.

If you are looking for a natural way to beautify your home, this certainly sounds like an interesting and fun way to do it!

10 Year Old Boy Killed By Pet Rat

A family is suing a major pet store chain after their son died from a bacterial infection they say he contracted from his pet rat.

The medical examiner's office ruled the cause of death was streptobacillus moniliformis infection, otherwise known as rat-bite fever.

The infected rat was purchased at a pet supply store by the boy's grandmother. They took the rat home and about two weeks later, the boy woke up in severe pain with a fever and stomach problems. He was also pale, lethargic and could barely walk, according to the lawsuit. The boy died the next day.

According to the lawsuit, the rat did appear to be safe. However, the lawsuit claims the pet supply store should have known about the rodent's health and that they did not adequately test for the disease. The lawsuit claims that negligence led to the boy's death, which has caused his parents emotional and economic hardship. They also claim that the retailer failed to post adequate warnings about the potential risks, especially for children.

The Centers of Disease Control (CDC) tell us that people can get rat-bite fever from bites or scratches from infected rodents, such as rats, mice or gerbils. A person may even contract

the disease by just handling an infected animal. It may also be contracted by consuming drinks or food contaminated with the bacteria. The disease is not spread from person to person.

According to the CDC, rat-bite fever is rarely fatal and it can be treated with antibiotics, such as penicillin.

The people who are most at risk for this disease are those who have pet rats, work with laboratory rats, work in pet shops or those who live in rat infested buildings. The CDC recommends that you should always wear rubber gloves when handling rats or cleaning cages. You should also wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your mouth after being in contact with rodents.

The store that sold the pet rat does post safety information on its website. They warn us that all rats are potential disease carriers. They go on to say, "Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a rat and should consider not having a rat as a pet."

Termite Terry would also like to remind parents of the importance of educating their families about proper animal safety. He remembers the story of a parent who caught a wild squirrel and put it in a cage, only to have a young child stick his finger in there and get bit. This child also died. You need to be very careful when handling wild animals.

Termite Terry also wants to remind everyone of how important it is to keep wild mice and rats out of your home. Do you need help with a rodent problem? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we'll be happy to assist.

Fun Facts About The Master's Tournament

The Masters Golf Tournament will be held on April 10th through the 13th this month in Augusta, Georgia. Here are some fun facts about the Masters:

- Horton Smith was the first Masters winner in 1934. He came back to win again in 1936.
- The tournament was not played from 1943 to 1945 due to World War II. During those years, cattle and turkeys were raised on the grounds to assist in the war effort.
- Jack Nicklaus has the most Masters wins with six titles.
- Arnold Palmer and Tiger Woods both have four wins each.
- Tiger Woods is the youngest winner of the Masters. He was 21 years, 104 days old when he first won in 1997.
- Gary Player holds the record for most appearances, at 52!
- The Masters only allows four minutes of advertising per hour with only three sponsors.
- Jack Nicklaus became the oldest champion in 1986 when he won his sixth title at the age of 46.
- 12 strokes is the widest margin of victory. Tiger Woods set that record in 1997.
- From 1934 to 2007, there have only been 18 holes in one.
- Phil Mickelson holds the record for the most birdies in one tournament at 25.
- Bubba Watson (2012), Phil Mickelson (2004, 2006, 2010) and Mike Weir (2003) are the only three left-handed winners.
- Chinese player, Guan Tianlang was the youngest golfer when he played the 2013 Masters. He was 14 years, 5 months old.
- In 1963, Jack Nicklaus received \$20,000 for winning his first Masters. When Adam Scott won the Masters last year, his share of the purse was \$1,440,000.

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Women Attacked By Bees After Car Crash!

Two women recently had the worst driving experience of their lives when they collided in a simple two-car crash. One of the cars lost control after the collision and hit a tree, causing one of its limbs and a massive bee hive to fall.

The 51-year old female driver and 17 year-old female passenger got out of the car after hitting the tree. While waiting to exchange information, they were suddenly attacked by a swarm of angry bees. The young girl was stung about 50 times and the older driver was tortured with over 1,000 bee stings! Witnesses at the scene say the driver jumped into a nearby swimming pool to get relief. The girl fell onto the street, covered with bees. The first deputy on the scene used a fire extinguisher to help get the bees off the girl. He later used a garden hose to remove the rest of the bees.

The women were treated at a nearby hospital. The brave deputy was stung but did not go to the hospital for treatment. Firefighters sprayed the area with foam to help gain control and an exterminator came by later to remove the hive.

Now, I wasn't there before the accident so I don't know if anyone had seen the bees swarming around the tree. But, if someone did notice the large bee hive, they should have reported it and had it removed. Large bee colonies in a residential area can be a serious safety hazard. These women were lucky. Had there been a young child or an elderly person on scene, they may have suffered serious injury or even died from the bee attack.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm asking for you to be good neighbors and look out for problems like this. I know we are all concerned about the environment and protecting bees, but we also need to be concerned about the safety of our citizens. If you want to save the bees, please remember there are beekeepers that can safely remove the hive and take the bees to a safer area.



"Termite" Terry Singleton