

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

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Dry Rot – The Silent Killer Of Wood

Dry rot is one of those problems that just won't go away, even if you ignore it. We call it the "*silent killer of wood*" because it *quietly* works around the clock, eating away at the wood on your home.

Do you know what causes dry rot and why it is such a problem? This article will give you the information you need and you'll learn **eight tips to help you prevent dry rot**.

How big of a problem is dryrot?

One of the main reasons that dryrot is so prevalent in Orange County homes is because of our damp climate and mild temperatures. It is found throughout homes in structural lumber, eave areas, garage doors, exterior doors, windows, etc. This next statement may surprise you:

"Current estimates show that approximately 10% of all U.S. wood production is used to provide materials to repair damage caused by dry rot."

When you consider the fact that **one out of every ten trees** cut down will be used to repair dry rot damage, one can easily argue that dry rot causes more damage than do termites.

What is dry rot?

Dry rot is caused by wood-destroying (decay) fungi. These decay fungi are plants that live on dead trees and lumber products. These plants are rather sophisticated and

can grow very rapidly when conditions are right. When a piece of wood has been infected by decay fungi, it is common to see small white/light grey fruiting bodies growing out of the wood and they look something like a "fan shaped sheet" or a "toad stool". These fruiting bodies produce many microscopic spores which are similar in function to seeds from higher plants. These spores are dispersed by wind or air currents and when one of them lands on a piece of wood in favorable conditions, it will germinate and grow quickly. Decay fungi must have **air**, **moisture** and **wood** in order to flourish. Moisture is the most critical factor.

Cellulose and lignin, which makes up the cell walls of wood, serves as the food source. When decay fungi attacks a piece of wood and starts digesting it, the wood shrivels up fast and becomes spongy (very weak).

8 Tips To Help You Prevent Dryrot

1. In areas where the decay hazard is high, it is best to use the heartwood of a decay-resistant species. Redwood and western red cedar are good choices. You may also want to have the wood treated with a good preservative, such as Bora-Care or Timbor.
2. When building a new home, always make sure your site is "well-drained". You do not want water seeping under the house. Larger roof overhangs, rain gutters and downspouts can be very effective. Also, remember

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40 Years Ago ...

On March 5, 1975, the Homebrew Computer Club held its first meeting in Menlo Park, California. This group is credited with starting the personal computer revolution and several notable computer pioneers were members. Steve Wozniak credits that first meeting with inspiring him to design the Apple 1.

An Old Irish Proverb To Live By ...

"Stop eating while you're still hungry, stop drinking while you're still thirsty, and rise from your morning before you are fully rested."

Rave Review!

"We wanted to take a moment to share our recent termite tenting experience with Termite Terry Pest Control. We recently had a need for their services, and we were recommended to them by our bank.

Once we contacted their office and spoke to Camaron, we knew immediately that we were in good hands for this project. She is very professional, polite, and very understanding about the apprehension that comes up from this process.

We continued with our daily routines, and on the scheduled inspection day, their inspector called, and confirmed his appointment with us and arrived on schedule and once he completed his interior/exterior inspection, he advised us of the next phase of the process, and that their repair crew would be out to our house to do the repairs from his report in the next day.

The next morning promptly as scheduled their repair crew arrived and commenced to do the repairs on our house, they repaired the damage, and then asked us if we needed to have the primed repair work painted for us. We are not able to really climb up safely to the peaks on our house and other high points, so we provided the paint and they painted their work. We could not really tell where the damage had been because of the Great Job of matching the repairs, it was done very professionally, and they did a great job of cleaning up their work site, and were a real pleasure to have doing the work for us.

Their crew arrived within the specific time frames provided for them to tent house. They tented our house, and on the day of completion, they met their turn-over time schedule for us and they did a Great Job. Not a broken plant, or damaged plant, and you could not tell they had even been there.

Everyone involved in the termite inspection, repair, and tenting, process were very professional and very polite, and a great group of business individuals to work with, and we will be recommending them to our friends and family in the future.

Thanks to each and everyone of you for the Great Job you did for us on our home. We greatly appreciate your commitment to providing Great Service, and Support."

Ron Mondragon
Huntington Beach

that you should never place untreated wood within 18 inches of the ground.

3. On homes with a raised foundation, make sure you have adequate cross ventilation. A good rule of thumb is to provide two square feet of opening for 25 feet of wall. Keep vegetation cut back away from subarea vents so they won't restrict air flow.
4. In areas where you have soil with a high moisture content, install a moisture barrier on the soil surface. This will cause the moisture to condense on the bottom of the plastic barrier and return to the soil instead of condensing on the floor and structural members of your home.
5. Don't mount wood directly on concrete unless you are using treated wood. On items like patio or porch post, it is a very good idea to use metal or plastic spacers to keep wood up and off the concrete. This will help prevent the wood from "wicking up" water from rain or lawn sprinklers.
6. Control moisture. If you have plumbing leaks, roof leaks, sprinklers spraying against the house or any other situation where wood is getting wet, have it fixed as soon as possible.
7. Repair or replace damaged wood because all of those cavities or holes caused by termites are easy places for moisture to collect and start dry rot.
8. Seal exterior wood with caulk and paint. This will help to keep moisture out.

How To Repair Dry Rot

When doing repairs, **always try and control the moisture source, first.** If you don't, the problem will simply continue.

Minor dry rot damage can often be carved out, treated with a registered fungicide and then repaired with a quality wood filler, such as "Bondo".

Wood members which are heavily damaged should be cut out and replaced. You should always cut out damage at least one foot beyond the

rotted areas. Some make the mistake of placing another piece of wood right along side of a dry rotted member so they can "brace it up". Don't do this because the dry rot will quickly attack the new wood. The only exception to this rule is when you are working in an area where you can completely eliminate all moisture, such as in a wall or under a house. **Remember that dry rot is like cancer and it will quickly spread unless you can completely eliminate all of it.**

Have a problem with dry rot damage on your home or business and need help in repairing it? We have some of the finest carpenters in Orange County and they will be happy to assist. **Call our office staff at (949) 631-7348** and we'll schedule an appointment at your convenience.

Termite Terry Wins The Super Service Award Five Years In A Row!

Termite Terry Pest Control, Inc., of Costa Mesa California, has earned the service industry's coveted Angie's List Super Service Award, reflecting an exemplary year of service provided to members of the local services marketplace and consumer review site in 2014. This is the fifth consecutive year that Termite Terry Pest Control has received this award.

"Earning the Super Service Award, five times consecutively, is an accomplishment that I am especially proud of," said Terry Singleton, the company's President. "I want to thank our office staff, pest control technicians and termite repair crews for doing such an outstanding job. Any company out there can advertise and make all sorts of claims, but none of that matters if you don't have good staff members to deliver the goods. I also want to thank all of our clients who took the time to

write such great reviews – I know that other Angie's List members really appreciate their thoughts and comments."

"Only about 5 percent of the pest control companies in Orange County, California, have performed so consistently well enough to earn our Super Service Award," said Angie's List Founder Angie Hicks. "It's a really high standard."

Mother Poisons Four Children And Kills Baby

Four children were left critically ill and a baby died after a mother used an imported pesticide to kill bed bugs in her apartment.

The product used was a pelleted form of phosphine which is an agricultural pesticide. This type of product is heavily regulated and made only available to professionals. It was later learned that her family had purchased the bottle of pellets when they were out of the country on a recent trip.

"When exposed to the air, the pellets react with moisture and release phosphine gas," said James Kehrer, a toxicologist at the University of Alberta. "As a gas, it's often used to fumigate large batches of grain."

The pellets were mostly spread around in one bedroom, however, fire crews found the substance throughout the unit. All tenants in the building had to be evacuated and were not allowed to return until officials deemed the area to be safe.

Termite Terry says, "I know that certain pests, such as bed bugs, can be very frustrating to deal with. I also know that you'll have friends or family who will tell you to use some super toxic stuff that will kill everything. But, some of these products are just too dangerous to use

in or around our homes and businesses. If you are going to do your own pest control treatments, you need to use a product that is properly labeled for your type of pest. You also need to read and follow the label's instructions completely. Please, make your family's safety a priority."

Do you need help with a pest problem at your home or business? **Call us at (949) 631-7348** and we'll be happy to assist.

The President's Economic Stimulus

President Termite Terry is going to continue with his economic stimulus plan because it is helping to grow our nation's economy. Here are just a few of your fellow citizens who have benefited recently:

- Mrs. Elbling of Costa Mesa referred us to Don Tallman of Costa Mesa.
- Mrs. Ferris of Los Alamitos recommended our service to Janice Kruse of Lakewood.
- Dana Kalina of Capistrano Beach referred us to Ruth Clark of Dana Point.
- Patti Ball of Mission Viejo recommended our service to Linda Cole of San Juan Capistrano.
- Michael McAllister of Rancho Santa Margarita referred us to Sandy Warneke of Newport Beach.

Everyone who referred us received a **FREE \$50 Gas Card!** To participate, all you have to do is to refer us to your family, friends or neighbors. And, if they have us do termite treatments, wood repairs or start a regular pest control service, you'll get your **FREE tank of gas**, too!

Celebrating National Red Cross Month

The American Red Cross is one of our nations premier humanitarian organizations and is dedicated to helping people in need around the world.

The group was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton and a circle of her acquaintances. Ms. Barton was in Europe following the Civil War and that is where she first heard of the Swiss-inspired Red Cross Movement. When Ms. Barton returned to the U.S., she started campaigning for an American Red Cross society and for ratification of the Geneva Convention that protects the war-injured. The U.S. ratified the Geneva Convention in 1882.

During her 23 years of leadership, the Red Cross conducted its first domestic and overseas disaster relief, gave aid to the military during the Spanish-American War and campaigned successfully for the inclusion of peace time relief work.

When World War 1 broke out, the Red Cross experienced phenomenal growth. Membership grew from 17,000 to more than 20 million adult and 11 million Junior Red Cross members. They staffed hospitals and ambulance companies. They also recruited 20,000 nurses to serve the military.

The Red Cross provided extensive services during World War 2. More than 104,000 nurses were called to provide service to the military and 27 million packages were prepared for American and Allied prisoners of war. More than 300,000 tons of supplies were shipped overseas. The Red Cross also initiated a national blood program and collected 13.3 million pints of blood for use by the armed forces.

After the war, they introduced a civilian blood program. The Red Cross now supplies nearly 50% of the blood in the U.S.

The Red Cross is an independent – volunteer - led organization and is financially supported by public donations and cost-reimbursements.

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Frozen Raccoons Pulled From Market's Freezer Section

An Asian market in the Los Angeles area is under investigation for selling whole frozen raccoons to consumers as food.

The Los Angeles County Public Health Department was notified by a shopper after she discovered the raccoon carcasses in the market's frozen food section, located next to the fish and meat. The raccoons were wrapped in clear plastic bags with all of their eyes, teeth, whiskers and fur fully intact. At \$9.99 a pound, they were being sold for about \$54 each.

Investigators from the Health Department confiscated the raccoons. According to the California Health and Safety Code, raccoons are considered a game animal and their meat can be sold as food if it comes from an approved source.

Raccoons are considered a delicacy in China and the market's owner claims to have sold frozen raccoons for years without any issues. All sales of this meat have been stopped, pending results from the investigation.

Myself, I wouldn't be all that shocked if I saw a market selling exotic meats. We all like different things – it's what makes us diverse. But whole animals in clear plastic bags? Can you imagine going to Ralph's market and seeing whole frozen chickens or turkeys, with feathers and all, in clear plastic bags? You and I know that that would be a big turn-off for a lot of people.

The big thing that I'm anxious to learn is where these raccoons came from. Did they come from a special farm or from a wilderness area? Please tell me that these weren't rabid or worm-infested raccoons caught behind the store while they were eating out of trash dumpsters. In other words, are they safe to eat? Wouldn't we all feel better about this if we saw an inspection sticker from the USDA on the package?



"Termite" Terry Singleton