

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

July 2012



Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

[www.termiteterry.com](http://www.termiteterry.com)



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## How To Stay Pest Free This Summer

Summertime is here and a lot of Orange County homeowners are having problems with pests of all types. Insects and rodents can do a great deal of damage to a home and its contents. They can also be serious vectors of disease.

No one wants to live in a home that is infested with these pests. But, here's the big question;

### How can these pests be controlled without compromising the safety of your family?

This may surprise you, but there are many ways in which you can control many of these pests without using pesticides. And, if you're the type of person who likes doing your own work around the house, you'll find that a lot of these items can be taken care of easily and at little or no costs to you. Here are **ten tips to help keep your home pest free this summer**:

1. Start by **controlling moisture** because water is like a magnet for insect and rodent problems. Check for plumbing leaks, roof leaks, leaky rain gutters, etc. Take a look at the ground around your home and make sure that you aren't overwatering your lawn and plants. Check your sprinkler system and adjust it if needed. Insects and rodents need a lot of water so your home needs to stay as dry as possible.
2. **Keep all plants and trees cut back** away from your home. Trees need to be cut back at least 4 feet away

from your home and none of the tree branches should be left hanging over your roof. This one simple step can really discourage pests from entering your home and can make a huge difference!

3. **Remove plants that attract insects and rodents** because of their fruit. You may also want to remove other plants that harbor honey-dew producing insects (e.g. fig trees, cherry laurel, bamboo, oleander).
4. **Clean up leaf piles and debris** from around your home.
5. **Keep firewood off the ground and store it away from your home.** Be sure to check it for pests before bringing it inside your home.
6. **Seal up cracks and holes in your home's exterior walls.** This will eliminate harborage for many pests and help keep them out of your home. Installing weather stripping around doors is a good way to help keep pests out, too.
7. **Check the screens on your doors and windows.** Well maintained screens are really great for keeping out insects of all types. Look at the screens on your attic, garage and subarea vents, too. These vent screens are especially important for keeping birds, rodents and small animals out of your home.
8. **Guard against pest invaders** by checking incoming materials for "hitchhiking" bugs. A lot of pests can be brought in with luggage, laundry and groceries. Take

(turn the page)

### Wimbledon Records!

- Youngest lady's winner: 15 year old Lottie Dod, 1887
- Youngest men's winner: 17 year old Boris Becker, 1985
- Most wins, ladies: Martina Navratilova with 9 victories
- Most wins, men: Pete Sampras and Willie Renshaw are tied with 7 victories each

*"Cat's know, comin' out of four, they better be standin' on it, else they'll be standin' in it."*

**"King" Richard Petty, 7 time Daytona 500 winner, born July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1937**

## Rave Reviews!

*"Thank you for the efficient and "painless" process we went through when you tented our house. Your rep, Ryan O'Hare, was prompt, friendly, and polite when meeting with us. He outlined our choices and did a thorough inspection of the house, the garage and the attic. His description of the procedure was accurate and the tenting went easily and quickly. We were back in our house in a matter of days and we feel secure that the job was done well. He was quick to answer phone calls and he made sure that our gas was turned on so that we could get back in our house when we asked.*

*Larry did the roof inspection and because we got roof insurance, the tile repairs were done within a week. Larry was also helpful and responsive to our questions about the roof.*

*The cost was reasonable and you even sent a gift card to our neighbor down the street who recommended Termite Terry to us . . . They were surprised and happy to get it in the mail.*

*We would highly recommend your company to our neighbors in Mission Viejo.*

*Thanks again for all your help and good service."*

Linda Zellinger,  
Mission Viejo

*"We wanted to thank you so much for the wonderful service your crew provided.*

*The gentleman, Skip, who contacted us gave us great info and answered any question we had about everything. He was very helpful and made us feel safe about everything.*

*We'll tell anyone that needs termite care about you. Thanks Again!"*

Miles & Marilyn Watterson  
Costa Mesa

a close look before you bring any flowers or plants into your home because you'll often find insects living in them.

9. **Ensure good ventilation in attics, garages and subareas.** This will help to reduce many of your insect problems. This will also help to keep these areas dry and reduce mold and mildew problems.
10. **Keep food and garbage in tightly fitting containers.** This is especially important to do at night because that is when many pests are most active.

Start with these ten steps first. If you still need to use a pest control product, you'll usually find that you won't need very much. In fact, you may even be shocked when you see how little pesticide is needed!

Do you have a pest problem and need some help in dealing with it? **Please call us at (949) 631-7348** and we'll be happy to schedule an appointment at your convenience.

## Dangerous New Termite Attacking South Florida!

A dangerous new termite has turned up in South Florida, leading local officials to organize a campaign to wipe it out before it can spread.

"The *Nasutitermes corniger* termite, which is native to the Caribbean, lives above ground, builds brown tubes up the outside walls of houses and shows a particular taste for hardwood. The insect's above-ground habitat means it would avoid direct competition with native, subterranean termites and raise the total number of termites that could live in the region by 25 to 30 percent", said Rudolf H. Scheffrahn, professor of entomology at the University of Florida.

"They forage on the open floor, which is something you don't see unless you live in the tropics," he said. "They love to eat hardwoods. They ate the handles off garden implements, rakes and hoes – turned them into

shredded wheat. If this thing really keeps going, it's going to be a problem for tropical Florida, from West Palm Beach to the Keys."

Workers from the Florida Department of Agriculture are treating homes in Dania Beach, where 42 properties have been found to be harboring these insects. The nests of these termites are about the size of a beach ball, made of termite excrement and are constructed above ground. These nests will be treated, along with the foraging tubes running up trees and homes.

Martha Rosen, a local resident, said that she and her husband first noticed strange dark lines going up the sides of their home. She soon found out what was causing them.

"They got into the tool shed and ate our stack of firewood," she said. "We went to pick it up and there was no wood left. They're very aggressive. My trees look like they're almost dead."

"The species first showed up in Dania Beach in 2001. Aggressive spraying was thought to have eradicated it, but then it turned up last summer. They are thought to have originally arrived on wooden pallets brought from the Caribbean to a nearby marina," said Michael Page, chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control for the Florida Department of Agriculture.

"A single nest could harbor 1 million or more termites," Scheffrahn said. "With the current infestation of 100 to 120 colonies, there are already more than 100 million of the termites in the area."

He went on to say, "Time is of the essence, because any day the winged termites could take to the air to establish new nests."



## Insects Needed To Feed 9 Billion Humans?

Some experts are saying that insects may form a sustainable, nutritious alternative to meat and are needed to keep food production in pace with the planet's booming population.

Jonathan Majer, an entomologist at Australia's Curtin University, says that despite the squeamishness many people feel towards eating insects, there is great potential for the market.

"Insects are very fast breeders so they are potentially a way of producing proteins and fats for human consumption rapidly – more than cows, goats or sheep," says Professor Majer.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization tells us that food production will need to be increased by 70 percent to feed 2.3 billion more people by 2050.

Researchers are looking for more efficient and innovative methods of food production, such as genetically modified foods and lab-grown meat. Professor Majer believes that insects are a good way of yielding protein from waste.

"Insects can feed on waste products a cow could not feed on and produce palatable protein and fat," he says.

The Professor warns us against harvesting insects from wild habitats because it would pose the danger of depleting insect populations.

"Insects are small so we need a lot to feed on, but we must not do this at the expense of the conservation of the insect," he says. "It needs to be something you can breed in an urban situation, in a factory unit or greenhouse in large quantities."

According to the Professor, we need to develop better techniques to rear safe, palatable insects for human

consumption. We also need to overcome human resistance to this unfamiliar food source.

"Some people are always on the lookout for more interesting flavors and like being experimental," he says. "If you eat crustaceans, if you don't have trouble eating a prawn or a crab then why would you have a problem eating an insect? They are all arthropods – they are fairly closely related."

The Professor does warn us that precautions must be taken before we start munching on insects.

"They must be cooked properly because many insects are intermediate hosts of a whole gang of flatworm and worm-like parasites," he says. There are plenty of insects that sequester toxic chemicals in their bodies or manufacture toxic chemicals to protect against predators. One has to target particular insects which are easy to breed and safe."

The professor hopes that future research will identify edible insect species which are suitable for long-term sustainable rearing.

It is a fact that insects have been eaten by humans for centuries and that they are still enjoyed by people living in Asia, South America and Africa.

Now that you've read this article, we would like for you to just imagine yourself going through the drive-through at a McDonalds restaurant and ordering a "*Bug Mac*". Or, how about going to Stuart Anderson's and ordering a "*Black Roach*" steak?? Don't know about you, but I think we'll all pass on that. If we ever get to that point, I think the rest of us will all be heading for the nearest salad bar!



## Fun Facts About Fireworks!

- Firecrackers appeared about 1,000 years ago and are traditionally credited to the Chinese, although India is also a likely source. Early firecrackers had bamboo cases or rolled paper tubes and were filled with gun powder.
- Many believe that the discovery of fireworks was actually an accident. Bamboo has hollow pockets of air that will explode when heated up. It is thought that someone in China put some bamboo in a fire and the bamboo exploded.
- In 1292, Marco Polo brought back firecrackers from the Orient to his birthplace of Italy. The Italians were fascinated by them and started adding chemicals to produce different colors. They also developed shells that could be launched and would explode at high altitudes.
- The first Independence Day celebration was in 1777 and fireworks were a part of the revels.
- The colors in fireworks are controlled by special chemicals and when mixed with other chemicals, they cause the different colors we see. The color red is made with strontium and lithium salts. To make orange, they use calcium salts. Gold uses iron and charcoal. Sodium compounds make the yellows. White comes from magnesium and aluminum. They use barium and chlorine to make green. Copper makes the color blue. Purple is from a mix of strontium and copper. Silver is made with burning metals, such as aluminum.
- The American Pyrotechnics Assoc. estimates that more than 14,000 fireworks displays light up the skies each 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- In 2010, 316 million dollars worth of fireworks were used in U.S. public displays. U.S. consumers purchased another 636 million dollars worth for personal use.

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Your Treatment Is FREEEEEE!!\*\***

## The "House From Hell"

Everyone knows that they should maintain their car (or truck) and change oil every three or four thousand miles, right? Well, as crazy as it seems, not everyone does that. Not long ago, I knew a guy that bought himself a huge F350 Ford pickup. It was jacked up high, had big tires and it was fully loaded with every accessory available. His truck was impressive!

He drove it everyday and he got more than his share of attention. But, I still remember that one morning when he put the key in, tried to start it and nothing happened. He thought that the battery had just died. They tried to jump start it and still, nothing happened. So, he had it towed to the dealership.

The mechanic from the dealership took a look at his truck and asked, "When is the last time you changed the oil in this truck?" The owner of the truck thought for a minute and answered, "I don't think I ever have." That's right! He drove the truck for over 30,000 miles and never once did he check or change the oil. The warranty on his truck was voided and he wound up buying a new engine that cost him a "whole ton of money".

This story came to mind when I was looking at what I call a "house from hell". It seemed like everything I touched on that house was destroyed by termites. When I totaled up the costs, my estimate for repairs was well over \$15,000! (The owners were finally convinced, after living in the home for many years that it needed to be fumigated).

This home has been seriously neglected and it really does look like it came from hell. Unfortunately, the owners don't have enough money to do the repairs. Worse yet, their home is in such terrible shape that they can't even paint it!

Ladies and gentlemen, don't let this happen to you. You know that you need to change the oil in your car every 3,000 to 4,000 miles. Please remember that if you live along the coast, you should also have your home fumigated every 8 to 10 years. As the mechanic in the old TV commercial used to say, **"You can pay me now, or you can pay me a lot more, later."**



"Termite" Terry Singleton