

“TERMITE” TERRY’S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

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Five “Spooky” Spider Myths Squashed

Haunted houses are a lot of fun to go into during Halloween and I love the way so many of them are decorated with spiders and cobwebs.

I remember one time when I went into one of these haunted houses, a lady opened the door and a big hairy tarantula on a string dropped down in front of her face. She was so terrified; I thought she was going to die!

Later that same night, we went into another room of this haunted house that was kind of dark. The people walking ahead of us didn’t know it, but there was a huge cobweb in front of them and they walked right into it – face first! Just then, a big black widow spider appeared with flashing red eyes. Oh, you should have heard everyone screaming!!

All of the spiders in this haunted house were fake, but that didn’t stop people from being scared out of their minds. It just goes to show you how so many of us are afraid of spiders.

One of the reasons why so many are afraid of spiders is because there is so much misinformation about these creatures out there. Here are five myths about spiders that we are going to squash:

Myth Number 1: Spiders are insects.

This is false! Spiders are members of the *Arachnida* group, and are quite different than insects. An Arachnid has four pairs of legs and two main body parts. Insects are members of the class *Insecta* and they have three pairs of

legs and three main body parts. Spiders don’t have wings. Some insects may have four, two, or no wings at all. It may also interest you to know that spiders have six to eight simple eyes, while insects have only two compound eyes.

Myth Number 2: All spiders make webs.

Not true! A web is a silken structure made to catch prey, and only about half of the known spiders catch prey by means of webs. Some spiders (wolf spider, jumping spider or sac spider) actively hunt for prey. Some others (trap door spiders and crab spiders) just sit and wait for prey to come to them.

Myth Number 3: All spiders are dangerous.

False! Most species of spiders do not harm humans, and they don’t feed on human blood. It may also surprise you to learn that most tarantulas are harmless. In the United States, the Brown Widow, the Black Widow, and the Brown Recluse are the only groups of spiders that pose a health threat to humans. You should also know that the Brown Recluse spider does not currently exist in California.

Myth Number 4: If you didn’t see what bit you, it was probably a spider.

Wrong! Spiders are frequently blamed for all kinds of bites, bumps, rashes, and growths that they likely had nothing to do with. The myth that spiders tend to bite

(turn the page)

Chuck Yeager Breaks The Sound Barrier!

Oct. 14, 1947: “At about 10:23am, I thought I had broken the Machmeter as it was all screwy going off the scale which only went to 1.05. I don't think they had a helluva lot of confidence in us. Instead ... I broke the sound barrier.”

Celebrating Johnny Carson

“I know a man who gave up smoking, drinking, sex, and rich food. He was healthy right up to the day he killed himself.”

“The King of late night television”
Born October 23, 1925

Rave Reviews!

"I was referred to Termite Terry by a friend and gave them a call for a quote. Skip Haffke called me right back and made an appointment for the next morning to come out and do an estimate. I needed to replace many damaged wooden beams over my deck, as well as the major wooden support beam they rest on.

I thought it would be a major job and take about a week to do. I was really pleased with the quote and shocked when he said it would only take two days.

We scheduled the work and the work crew showed up right at eight am as they were scheduled and did the job in only a day and a half. Cleaned up after each day and did a great job. The crew kept me informed as to the progress and when they would leave and come back. All were professional . . . and nice guys! I would not hesitate to recommend them to anyone.

Thanks Termite Terry, for a great job!"

Paul Sweeney
Placentia

"Erik did my inspection and was very thorough – went into my crawlspace and inspected the attic. Went over what he found and outlined the treatment options. Was not pushy and didn't try to up-sell me on services.

They are busy so my appointment was about a month after the inspection. Jose, George, and Saul did the subterranean treatment in several locations. They showed up on time, worked efficiently, and didn't leave any mess.

Great job overall and will likely use them for any future work."

Stefen Perez
Long Beach

people when they least expect it, such as when they are lying in bed, has been circulating around for over a century. While it is possible for a person to be bitten by a spider in bed, it is very rare. Spiders are not like mosquitoes or ticks – they don't feed on human blood.

The belief that spider bites are extremely common can be a potentially dangerous myth. The medical journal, Canadian Family Physician, states, "Many people misdiagnose spider bites, and the only way to be sure is to see the spider in action. Doctors need to know which kind of spider was involved in order to provide accurate treatment. *Dermonecrosis*, or death to skin tissue, is rarely caused by spider bites worldwide, and doctors should consider more likely causes for this condition."

Myth Number 5: Daddy-longlegs spiders are dangerous.

Completely false! For years, many have spread the myth that daddy-longlegs spiders (known as cellar spiders) are among the most deadly spiders in the world. Their venom is said to be very toxic but their fangs are too short to bite through human skin.

Cellar spiders have extremely long-skinny legs and everyone has seen them in a basement, house or shed. They often make stringy webs and feed on small moths, flies, gnats and other creatures found indoors.

You'll be happy to know that there are no proven and documented cases of cellar spiders biting humans. Also, there are no toxicological studies testing the lethality of their venom. Even if they could bite you, the dose of venom would be so small that it is doubtful any reaction would occur.

We hope that squashing these myths will give you a sense of relief. Again, the only spiders we really need to be concerned about in Orange County are the Black Widow and the Brown Widow spiders. If you're having a problem with these spiders, **call us at (949) 631-7348** and we'll be happy to assist.

Penn State's New Invention For Wood Treatment

Scientists from Penn State University have invented a new pest-killing treatment for wood to prevent destruction from various wood destroying pests.

"Methods of killing pests and pathogens – known as phytosanitation measures – are required for all solid-wood packaging material, such as wooden-constructed shipping pallets, used for import/export commerce worldwide," said John Janowiak, professor of wood products engineering at Penn State.

These measures are mandated by the United Nations, and their goal is to significantly reduce the risk of introduction of alien invasive insects, and pathogens that can kill native urban and forest trees.

Currently, the solid wood packaging industry is using kiln heating and methyl bromide treatments. Under the United Nations, the international community is required to phase out the use of methyl bromide. That is why an alternative treatment measure is needed.

Dr. Kelli Hoover, and Dr. John Janowiak, initially tested microwave treatments. However, they found that they did not heat deeply enough into the wood.

They next began testing radio frequency waves – another form of dielectric heating – that can penetrate several meters into the wood. This allows for them to treat many different wood species and sizes, in large batches.

Conventional kiln heating uses a lot of energy and requires that the wood be heated for 30 minutes, so that the core temperature of the wood is raised to 56 degrees C. This is what is needed to kill insects and nematodes.

Janowiak and Hoover's new treatment method achieved the same results within one minute!

Penn State is pursuing U.S. and international patent rights on the unique aspects of the treatment. They hope to partner with an equipment manufacturer who will license the technology.

This is very exciting news. It is way too early to make any predictions, but Termite Terry is already writing letters to the professor and asking him if there is any possibility of using this as an alternative treatment on homes and buildings.

Kim Kardashian Needs Fire Ants?

Psoriasis is an autoimmune disorder that affects 7.5 million Americans. Kim Kardashian has grappled with this skin disease for years and now, we have learned that compounds found in fire ants may be able to finally offer her some relief.

Scientists, from Emory and Case Western universities, have released a new study. Their research shows that compounds from fire ant venom could reduce skin thickening and inflammation in psoriasis.

Psoriasis is treated with topical steroids. However, these treatments may have side effects, such as skin thinning and easy bruising.

Solenopsin is the main toxic ingredient in fire ant venom. This substance chemically resembles ceramides, the lipid-like molecules needed for maintaining the barrier function of the skin.

“We believe that solenopsin analogs are contributing to full restoration of the barrier function in the skin,” Dr. Jack Arbiser, professor of dermatology at Emory University School of Medicine, said in a press release. “Emollients can soothe the skin in psoriasis, but they are not sufficient for restoration of the barrier.”

Dr. Arbiser’s previous lab studies have shown that solenopsin is an inhibitor of blood vessel growth, and that it has potential as an anticancer agent.

Further research will be needed, but scientists are hopeful that this will lead to a cure to help fight psoriasis.

Mexican Papaya Recall

The Centers of Disease Control has linked the most recent outbreak of Salmonella to Maradol papayas, imported from a Tijuana packer. A company in Southern California has now issued a recall on these papayas.

At least 14 people in Arizona, California, and Colorado have been confirmed with the outbreak strain of Salmonella Anatum. One person has died, and at least five have required hospitalization.

This latest outbreak is one of four that has occurred since late last year. More than 200 people in 23 states have been sickened.

These papayas were grown in the western Mexican state of Colima, and were shipped to markets from August 10th to the 29th. Don’t eat any of these! The Food and Drug Administration recommends that you should throw out papaya if you have any doubt about its origin.

Infections of Salmonella bacteria can cause fever, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. If you have eaten fresh papaya lately, and have developed any of these symptoms, you should seek medical attention. Be sure to tell your doctor about eating these papayas so that the proper diagnostic tests can be performed.

Halloween Fun Facts!

Halloween will be on Tuesday, October 31st and here are some fun facts to help you get into the spirit:

- Over 41 million kids, between the ages of 5-14, will go trick-or-treating this year.
- Halloween candy sales should top \$2.1 billion.
- About 16% of Americans dress up their pets. The most popular pet costumes are a pumpkin, hot dog, bumble bee, lion and the devil.
- Nearly 35 million pounds of candy corn is produced each year. It is made of sugar, carnauba wax and water. Fondant and marshmallows are also added for a soft bite.
- Costume sales should reach \$3.1 billion this year. Of that amount, about \$1.2 billion will be spent on adult costumes.
- The Haunted Cave, in Lewisburg, Ohio, tops the list as the largest haunted house of them all. It is 80 feet below ground, measures 3,564 feet long, and has 30,000 live bats!
- Don’t bring Silly String to Hollywood or you may get a \$1,000 fine! It was banned in 2004.
- The city of Belleville, Illinois, prohibits kids over the age of 12 to go trick-or-treating. Meridian, Miss., Bishopville, S.C., Boonsboro, Md., and several cities in Virginia, have similar laws.
- Halloween greeting card sales should top \$390 million.
- Millennials love Halloween. About 70% will dress up in a costume, and about 48% will throw or attend a party.
- Because the movie Halloween was on such a tight budget, they had to buy the cheapest mask they could find for the character, Michael Myers. It was a William Shatner Star Trek mask. Initially, Shatner didn’t know the mask was in his likeness, but when he found out years later, he said he was honored.

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I Guarantee It."**

Millions Have Mites In Their Eyelashes And Don't Know It

Do you ever share your mascara with someone else? Ever go to a store where they have samples of mascara, and try some on before you decide which color to buy? If you have, chances are that you also received the gift of "eyelash mites".

Eyelash mites (*Demodex folliculorum* and *Demodex brevis*) are parasites found in the follicles of our faces. They can be found in the nose, cheeks, and particularly in the eyelash area. These mites are so small that they cannot be seen with the naked eye, and up to 25 mites may be found on one single eyelash follicle. They are most active at night because they do not like light.

The elderly are much more likely to carry eyelash mites, because of their weakened immune systems. About a third of children and young adults, and about half of adults also carry them.

Women, who wear a lot of mascara and eye makeup, tend to have higher numbers of mites on their eyelashes. Not washing your face before going to bed could also be a contributing factor. Some say that 50 percent of Americans have eyelash mites because they sleep with their makeup on.

Doctors don't usually treat for eyelash mites, unless they see signs of irritation, inflammation, or infection. When the number of mites is excessive, the condition is called demodicosis. Some people will also have their eyelashes fall out when they experience demodicosis.

If you suspect that you are having a problem with eyelash mites, you should make an appointment to see your doctor. While you're at it, take your spouse with you and have him or her checked for demodicosis. Dogs can be vulnerable to eyelash mites (*D. canis*), so it is a good idea to have them checked, as well.



"Termite" Terry Singleton