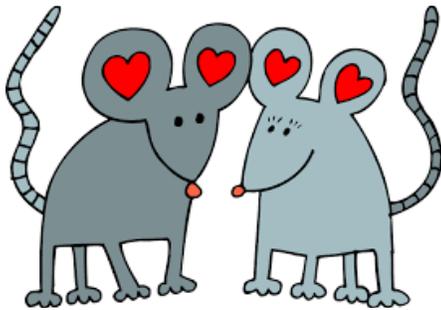


# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

February 2019



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## Potential "Hotspots" For Subterranean Termites

Subterranean termites cause billions of dollars in damage each year, and they are the most destructive pests of wood in the United States. Most people never find out that they have a termite problem until it's too late. That is because a majority of subterranean termite activity is located inside of walls, and in areas that are hidden from view.

In this article, we'd like to share some tips on where you can look around your home for potential hotspots of subterranean termites.

### Wood Fences

If you have a wooden fence and want to check to see if you have subterranean termites in your area, this is one of those hotspots where you'll often find them.

Subterranean termites live in the ground, and they build mud tunnels up to your fence. These mud tunnels are usually between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. If you use your pocket knife and open up an active tunnel, you'll see small white termite workers traveling inside of them. On an older fence, you may see damaged wood. If you use your pocket knife and open up wood that is damaged by subterranean termites, you'll see that the inside of these damaged areas is coated with the mud that they use to build their tunnels.

Unfortunately, many of these wood fences are sitting right on the ground, and this makes it especially easy for

the subterranean termites to start chomping and eating away at your fence. This earth-to-wood condition also makes it nearly impossible to control these termites.

Ideally, the bottoms of the wood slats should be mounted several inches above the ground, and the posts should be placed on concrete pads that are several inches higher than the prevailing grade. If you are really set on building a wooden fence, we recommend using pressure treated lumber and cedar slats. Certain paints or wood preservatives will also help to extend the life of your fence.

If your fence is infested with subterranean termites, you should consider having your fence rebuilt to correct these earth-to-wood contacts. On the other hand, if the fence is getting too old, you may just want to let it live out its useful life and replace it later.

Termite treatments are not usually recommended on wood fences that are touching the soil because they probably won't be very effective. You must have the wood up and off the ground, in order to achieve good results.

### Garages

Garages are often a hotspot of subterranean termite activity. That is because most garages have what we call "supported" or "floating" slabs. In other words, when the garage foundation is being constructed, the builder first installs a foundation wall around the outside perimeter of

(turn the page)

### 50 Years Ago . . .

On February 9, 1969, the Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet made its first flight. This plane can accommodate up to 660 passengers. Over 1,500 have been built, and it is still in production today.

### Remembering A Character From The "City Slickers" Movie

*"The only two things you can depend upon  
are gravity and greed."*

Jack Palance, born February 18, 1919

## Rave Reviews!

*"If you want something done right, go with the best! Yes, Termite Terry is just that! What makes him so different? He has follow-through, integrity, and he cares. He asks the right questions and fully prepares you for the fumigation. Who writes hand-written notes anymore? I do and so does Terry! He will appreciate your business. He was hands on with the preparation phase. He doesn't let anything slip through the cracks. He's honest, trustworthy and all around easy to work with. Thank you Terry! I've had another company in the past that required a 2<sup>nd</sup> tenting because it wasn't done right. I wish I had known Terry then. If you want it done right the first time, call Termite Terry Pest Control!"*

Angie Butler  
Rossmoor, Calif.

*"We had this fine company out to inspect some termite activity in our walk-in closet . . . we had been finding droppings for several months.*

*Termite Terry came and inspected the area, gave us a reasonable estimate and a few days later drilled holes in the wood and sprayed. So far not a sign of termites! They were timely, courteous and reasonable! We would call them again, if needed."*

Patti W  
Laguna Hills

*"I used Termite Terry for wood repair and everybody was extremely professional and polite. They gave me an excellent price and the craftsmanship was awesome. The experience with Terry was extremely helpful. He explained everything, and followed up after the work was completed to make sure I was satisfied. I would definitely recommend Termite Terry for any termite work that is needed around the house."*

Troy Haller  
Huntington Beach

the garage. Later, after the foundation's cement has cured, he will pour a slab in between the foundation walls. These types of garage foundations are strong and will easily support the weight of cars. The problem they present is that they leave what we call a "cold joint" (crack), in between the slab and the foundation walls. This "cold joint" will also provide easy access for subterranean termites.

When inspecting your garage, you should move everything away from the inside walls. Start at one corner, and then go all the way around the inside perimeter of the garage. You need to check for any termite mud tunnels that may be coming up through these cracks. In some cases, you may also discover that these termites have attacked boxes and/or wooden shelves that have been sitting near these cracks.

If you see these mud tunnels being built up the side of your garage walls, or if you see where they have attacked boxes or other wooden items, then you know that you will need to have a treatment performed on your home.

Garage foundations are usually treated by drilling a series of holes through the slab, and injecting a termiticide into the soil that is located below. It is also good practice to perform a treatment around the exterior walls of the garage, as well.

### Excessive Moisture

Subterranean termites require a lot of moisture in order to survive. Check the inside and outside of your home for plumbing leaks, roof leaks, or any other source of excessive moisture. If you discover a moisture problem, you should carefully inspect these hotspots for any signs of subterranean termites.

If no signs of termites are visible, then you should correct the excessive moisture condition to help prevent future problems. Any signs of termites you see will indicate that a treatment will be necessary. Treatments are usually performed by injecting a termiticide into the soil areas, located below the foundation.

### Earth-To-Wood Contacts

Any wooden part of your home that is in contact with the ground should be considered a hotspot for subterranean termites.

One of the more common areas to find earth-to-wood contacts is on homes that have wood siding and trim. Quite often, you'll find that these wood members are in direct contact with the soil. This condition can often be corrected by simply lowering the soil levels, and arranging the soil in such a way that any water (from rain or excessive irrigation) will flow away from the foundation. In some cases, you may find it necessary to have a contractor correct the problem.

Other hotspots to look for are fence posts that are attached to the home's exterior, porch posts, patio posts, and attached wooden decks. None of these wooden members should be in contact with the soil.

When earth-to-wood contacts are found, these areas should be carefully inspected for signs of subterranean termites. If no signs of termites are visible, correct the conditions and you'll be good to go. Any signs of termite activity will indicate that treatments will be needed.

### Room Additions Or Other Construction Add-Ons

Anytime you see that a room has been added onto a house, these areas should be considered to be a hotspot for termite problems. Other things to look for are patio slabs, planter boxes, or stucco walls that have been attached to the main structure.

These areas should be carefully inspected for signs of termites. The reason why these additions can be such a problem is that the termites will often work their way up through joints in the concrete, and attack your home. If termites are found, they should be thoroughly and aggressively treated.

Have a termite problem and need

an inspection? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we we'll be happy to schedule an inspection at your convenience.

## New Bed Bug App

Just the thought of having bed bugs crawling over your body at night is enough to drive anyone over-the-edge.

If you are ever in a situation where you think you may be dealing with bed bugs, there is a new app that has the answers and information you need on what to do next.

This new app was created by Dr. Susan Jones, a professor of entomology at Ohio State University. The research for this project was funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Their goal was to set up a one-stop information source for everything you need to know about bed bugs.

"Bed bugs can be found in homes, in the workplace, in schools, hotels, theaters, vehicles, in the soles of your shoes, nearly anywhere," Jones said. "And, because they're expensive to get rid of and many people are using ineffective chemicals trying to kill them, bed bugs aren't going anywhere."

"The bed bug problem is not going away, so we wanted to create an app to get factual, relevant information into the hands of as many people as possible in an easy-to-use format," Jones said. "There is so much misinformation out there, so we wanted to provide the most factual information that we can about bed bugs."

On the app, there are a number of photos. You'll also find chapters dealing with bed bug identification, prevention, how to perform inspections, treatments, how to avoid being ripped off by scams, advice for travelers, and much more.

The app is available for Android and iOS devices. It can be downloaded for free by searching for "Bed Bug Field Guide" in the App store and Google Play store.

## President's Economic Stimulus

The new year has started off with everyone in Washington DC fighting amongst one another. While all the others are playing politics, President Termite Terry is working behind the scenes on improving our economy. His successful plan broke all records last year, but he wants to do even better in 2019. Here are just a few more of your fellow citizens who have benefited from his Economic Stimulus Plan:

- Steve Sihilling of Costa Mesa referred our service to Bill Heath of San Clemente.
- Knud Krogh of San Clemente referred us to Hal Bonilla of San Clemente.
- Patti Ball of Mission Viejo referred us to Steve Johnson of Santa Ana.
- Kevin Herold of Redondo Beach recommended our service to Susan Malecki of Long Beach.
- Then, Susan Malecki of Long Beach turns around and refers our service to Gary Casmano of Long Beach!

The President's plan is easy and with your help, we can **double the number of people who get FREE GAS each month**. All you have to do is simply refer us to someone who needs a termite treatment, wood repairs, or a monthly pest control service. And, if they hire us, we'll send you a **\$50.00 Gas Card**. That is real economic stimulation you can bank on!

## Fun Facts About Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Day will be celebrated on February 14<sup>th</sup>, so let's take a look at some fun facts for this holiday:

- Pope Gelasius declared February 14<sup>th</sup> as Valentine's Day in 496 A.D. This was his effort to Christianize the pagan celebration of Lupercalia.
- In 1847, Oliver Chase invented a machine and started making candy hearts that were originally meant to be used as medical lozenges. 15 years later, he developed a way to press words onto the candy we now know as Sweethearts.
- About \$20 billion will be spent for Valentine's Day.
- Passing out Valentines is a 600-year-old tradition. The oldest record of a valentine was a poem written by Charles Duke of Orleans. He sent it to his wife while he was in imprisoned in 1415.
- 144 million greeting cards will be exchanged on Valentine's Day in the U.S.
- Cupid's bow and arrows aren't just for show. Cupid is the son of Venus, the goddess of love and beauty. His bow and arrows are meant to pierce hearts and cast a spell of love.
- Richard Cadbury, the founder of Cadbury's Cocoa and Chocolate Company, introduced the first box of Valentine's Day chocolates in 1868.
- About 3 in 10 adults will not celebrate Valentine's Day. Oh well, I guess that means more chocolate and roses for the rest of us!
- Nearly 6 million couples will become engaged on Valentine's Day.
- According to a survey, more than 50% of women will dump their not-so-sweetie if they don't get something for Valentine's Day. You guys have been warned. Get on the phone, place your orders, and make those reservations!

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## Tick Bite Causes Teacher To Suffer Memory Loss And Fatigue

A teacher was bitten by a tick in his ear while volunteering in Nepal. This caused a rare infection to spread throughout his body, leaving him with memory loss and fatigue.

The teacher said that he didn't realize he had been bitten until a few days later, when he started feeling discomfort in his ear. At first, he wasn't concerned about his illness because others in his group had developed colds or the flu.

"They treated me with antibiotics, but what they didn't know was that the type of infection I had developed was resistant," he said of his treatment in Nepal. "I flew home as planned, but the flight, a 12-hour flight via the Middle East, was the worse experience of my life."

At one point, his temperature reached 104.9, and he developed severe pain. They took him to a hospital, where he was eventually diagnosed with encephalitis and a *rickettsial* typhus infection.

"I felt different in myself," the teacher said. "I had real problems with my balance and was unable to walk in a straight line. I physically felt as though I was impaired or drunk. I could not gauge space or distance and would often walk into door frames or knock things such as drinks over."

Nearly two years after being diagnosed and treated, he still has problems with his memory. He is now working with an organization that provides support to brain injury patients.

The Centers of Disease Control tells us that *rickettsial* pathogens are transmitted by fleas, lice, mites, and ticks. Close to 60 cases of typhus have occurred in the Los Angeles area during the past 12 months. They strongly recommend that you trim and clean up your landscaping, remove pet food, and keep your trash cans covered. Wild animals are often infested with these disease transmitting parasites and by doing your part, you can help discourage them from entering your yards.



"Termite" Terry Singleton