

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

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Those Pesky Silverfish!

Chances are you've seen silverfish scurrying around in your bathrooms, kitchen and laundry room. While these "pesky" silverfish are harmless to humans and pets, they can pose a threat to your belongings as they seek out food to eat.

Silverfish are thought to be one of the most primitive insects living on earth. In 1988, Dr. Conrad Labandeira, an entomologist at the University of Chicago, discovered a silverfish fossil in Quebec that is believed to be the oldest insect in the world. This specimen was estimated to have lived between 390 million and 392 million years ago!

Most silverfish are about 1/2 to 3/4 inch long, and their carrot-shaped bodies are silver or gunmetal in color. They have six legs, two long antennae on their head, and three long appendages at the rear of their body. These three appendages are one of the reasons why they are often referred to as "bristletails".



A silverfish egg will hatch in 19 to 43 days at temperatures of 72 to 90 degrees F, and they become

sexually mature in several weeks to several months. Adults will lay 1 to 3 eggs per day during their 2 1/2 year lifetime.

One can find silverfish almost anywhere in a house. However, they are usually found in areas of high moisture close to their source of food. Since their bodies are flattened, they can find harborage in very small cracks and crevices. That is why you'll sometimes find them within the confines of narrow book bindings, the loose pages of books, or in the corrugations of cardboard.

The diet of silverfish includes a wide variety of foods containing proteins or carbohydrates, including rolled oats, dried beef, flour, starch, paper, cotton, some synthetic fibers, sugar, beef extract, dead insects, glue, paste and linen.

While silverfish will only consume small amounts of food, they do contaminate them with their body scales and fecal droppings.

The damage they do to some natural and synthetic fibers, books and other paper products can be considerable. If you've ever picked up an old book or magazine that has been damaged by silverfish, you'll find holes in the pages and that the edges of the paper have been chewed away in irregular patterns.

Damage caused by silverfish to textiles can be identified by the presence of feces (looks like black pepper), scales, and irregular feeding marks on individual fibers. You may
(turn the page)

30 Years Ago . . .

On June 22, 1990, Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, Germany was dismantled. It was the best-known Berlin Wall crossing point between East Berlin and West Berlin during the Cold War. It is now on display in a museum.

Remembering A Great Crooner

"I've got seven kids. The three words you hear most around my house are 'hello, 'goodbye, 'and I'm pregnant."

Dean Martin, born June 7, 1917

Rave Reviews!

"I have used Termite Terry Pest Control on two occasions and in my opinion, they are the best I've used.

Terry has complete services with termite management and wood repair teams to carry out any replacement necessary to finish the job. They came out when I called and serviced my home expertly.

I have peace of mind that the termite problem is managed and that I don't worry that a problem may have been overlooked.

I am happy to recommend Termite Terry Pest Control and have already given their information to some of my neighbors."

Elizabeth Wright, Speech-Language Pathologist
Costa Mesa

"Termite Terry tented my house for termites three years ago. Since then, they come every-other month to spray for ants, spiders, and a whole host of other bugs. If you have a problem in between regular treatments, they come back at no cost. I had an ant problem right after my last treatment, they came right out, and it was much better by that night, and completely gone in less than 48 hours. Call and talk with Marie in their office. She is wonderful. Very happy with all of my service from them as have been my neighbors."

Rhonda Halverson
Huntington Beach

"Termite Terry was really good to me. They came out and were willing to tell me that my termite damage was old and inactive and that I didn't actually need to hire them for anything. If you know anyone who is looking for help with termite problems, call Termite Terry Pest Control."

Jaime Sue
Silverado

also see yellowish stains on items, especially linens.

How To Control Silverfish

1. **Reduce moisture and humidity.**

Airtight homes with humidity levels above 50% year-round can develop silverfish infestations that can be very difficult to control with only insecticide applications. In order to achieve control, the relative humidity will need to be reduced to below 45% to 50%. Dehumidification equipment may be needed, and we suggest that you contact a professional air-conditioning/heating specialist for help.

In some cases, your home's attic and crawlspace ventilation may need to be improved, especially with chronic infestations. Special electric ventilation fans can be useful in some situations.

Do you like cooking or taking long hot showers? You can lower the humidity levels in your home by simply using the electric fans in kitchens and baths.

Dripping faucets and leaky pipes should be repaired. It is also important to wash your dishes and put them away after each meal, instead of leaving them in the sink.

2. **Eliminate harborage sites.**

Seal cracks and crevices, especially around windows, cabinets, and moldings. Old cardboard boxes, newspapers and books may need to be discarded. If you want to keep these items, you'll need to dry them out and find a better way to store them, such as in airtight containers. Silverfish are nocturnal, so improved lighting may make the room less hospitable.

3. **Vacuuming on a regular basis**

can be an effective way to remove silverfish and reduce the population.

4. **Remove leaves and grass litter**

from around your house. This will help to keep these pests from

invading your home.

5. **Identify and eliminate potential food sources.**

Silverfish tend to seek out starchy materials. Food sources that cannot be removed should be placed in tightly sealed containers. If you use cornstarch-based cosmetics, bathroom floors should be vacuumed regularly.

6. **Treatments with insecticides may be needed.**

Kitchens and baths are where you'll need to focus your attention. However, these pests may be found in any room. Treatments are usually done by applying either dust or liquid products into cracks and crevices, under appliances and cabinets, and in wall and plumbing voids. The application of dusts in attics and crawlspaces is often effective. Commercially available silverfish baits may also help in your fight with these pests.

Ideally, you'll need to find their actual breeding site but that is not always easy to do. If you need assistance with your silverfish problem, please **call us at (949) 631-7348** and we'll be happy to schedule an appointment at your convenience.

150 Snakes Removed From Under A Home!

A couple purchased a "dream home" in a nice neighborhood, but little did they know they were about to experience their life's biggest nightmare.

They moved into their new home in November, 2019. Life was good and everyone was happy living there until the following spring. That is when they found snakes living in the rear part of the house. As the weather warmed up, they started seeing snakes popping up in

the yard, under the wood deck, under a storage shed, and around the foundation.

One of the snakes even got inside the house. The owner said, "My cats had it cornered in the bathroom. We're not sure how it got in, but we got rid of that one right away."

The couple tried to take care of the snakes themselves, using sticks to remove them. They soon found that the problem was way too much for them to handle on their own, so they called a professional for help. Their exterminator found a large snake den under the rear deck, and over the past year more than 150 snakes have been removed. The snakes were relocated.

The couple said that the snake infestation was not disclosed by the sellers before they bought the house, so it came as a "slithery" surprise. As of now, they have spent about \$8,000 on a new deck, storage shed, and pest control.

Only time will tell if this snake problem is behind them. They will have to wait until spring to see if any more pop up.

Home Maintenance Tip: It's Time To Adjust Your Sprinklers

Summer is here and everyone is watering their plants and lawns to keep them green. Your sprinkler system will be running from now until November, so this is the perfect time to make adjustments. Here are some things you can do yourself:

1. **Adjust your sprinklers** properly so you keep the outside of your home dry. Excessive moisture can damage the walls, ruin your paint, cause dryrot damage, and start termite problems.
2. **Adjust the spray patterns of your sprinkler heads** to assure proper coverage. Conserve water

by not letting them spray onto driveways, walkways, or streets.

3. **Don't over water.** This can cause compacted soils, lawn fungus, increased insect activity, mold, root rot, and a shallow root system.

President's Economic Stimulus

The corona virus pandemic is winding down and it's time to reopen the country so we can rebuild our economy.

Here are just a few more of your fellow citizens who have benefited from President Termite Terry's Economic Stimulus Plan:

- Kevin Herald of Redondo Beach referred us to James Frost of Redondo Beach.
- Doddy Ruitenschild from Huntington Beach recommended our service to Ollie Gout of Westminster.
- Patti Ball of Mission Viejo referred us to James Choi of Torrance.
- Brian Dobbins of Newport Beach referred us to Gary Hanson of Newport Beach.
- David Smith from La Habra referred us to Barbara Barr of La Mirada.

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 Flag Day!

Flag Day is always celebrated on June 14th and here are some fun facts about this very special day:

- During the American Revolution of 1775, most colonist fought under their own flags when the war broke out against the British. The Second Continental Congress met in June of 1775 to create the Continental Army. This led to the creation of the first American flag, the Continental Colors.
- The first flag had 13 red and white alternating stripes and a Union Jack in the corner. George Washington felt this was too similar to that of the British, so he set out to have a new flag designed.
- On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution stating that the flag should have 13 red and white alternation stripes, and that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field.
- In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that called for a nationwide observance of Flag Day on June 14th. Congress made the observance permanent in 1949.
- In anticipation of Alaska and Hawaii becoming states, a 17-year-old student designed the flag as it appears today. Robert Heft created the 50-star flag as part of a history project, and his teacher gave him a passing grade of B-. In 1959, Robert submitted his design to Congress and President Eisenhower selected his work over 1,500 other samples. By the way, Robert's teacher later changed his grade to an A.
- During the opening sequence of the first-season of Gilligan's Island, the flag can be seen flying at half-mast. This is because the show's pilot finished filming on November 22, 1963 – when President Kennedy was assassinated.

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Re-Opening Businesses May Be Greeted By Rodent Infestations When They Return

Restaurants in California were forced to close, or were only allowed to offer limited service to help limit the spread of COVID-19. We know for a fact that many rodents live off the food and waste generated by these establishments.

During the closure period, a majority of the restaurant trash dumpsters were left empty or only partially filled, and this has forced many rodents to seek out new sources of food. It is no wonder that many owners of these re-opening businesses may be greeted by rodent infestations when they return.

Rats and mice have a strong survival instinct and when there is a shortage of food, they will aggressively seek out new sources. In other words, if there is no food in the trash dumpster, then they will try and find a way inside the restaurant. If there's no food left inside the restaurant, then they may try getting into other businesses located nearby. And, if that doesn't work, then they may head straight toward our homes. Could this be the reason why so many home and business owners in Orange County are seeing a rise in rodent activity?

As this pandemic winds down, we're all going to have to continue working together to help curb this rodent uprising. One way we can do this is by sealing up any access points that would allow for rodents to get inside our structures. We need to clean up any debris and remove heavy vegetation from around our buildings. We should also keep trash in tightly covered bins, and remove pet and bird food from our yards. If you do find rodents inside of your home or business, those should be trapped and removed.

Like I always say, *"Rats and mice don't read the paper or watch the news. They don't even know about this pandemic or our recession. All they do is to keep on working."*



"Termite" Terry Singleton