

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

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

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## Story Of The Big Internet Spider Hoax

Spiders and their webs are always popular props used during the Halloween season. When you see haunted houses with cobwebs spread through every room, and big creepy black spiders crawling around that have glowing red eyes – you know it has to be one of the most horrifying times for anyone who suffers from arachnophobia!

Back in 1999, a gentleman decided to produce an internet hoax that played on people's fear of spiders. This hoax quickly spread over the internet as readers assumed it was true, and many of them wanted to warn all of their friends and colleagues of this potential danger. Here is how his internet hoax read, including grammatical errors:

### **This Is Not A Joke. It concerns The Blush Spider**

*"An article by Dr. Beverly Clark, in the Journal of the United Medical Association (JUMA), the mystery behind a recent spate of deaths has been solved. If you haven't already heard about it in the news, here is what happened. Three women in Chicago, turned up at hospitals over a 5 day period, all with the same symptoms. Fever, chills, and vomiting, followed by muscular collapse, paralysis, and finally, death. There were no outward signs of trauma. Autopsy results showed toxicity in the blood. These women did not know each other, and seemed to have nothing in common. It was discovered, however, that they had all visited the same restaurant (Big Chappies, at Blare*

*Airport) within days of their deaths. The health department descended on the restaurant, shutting it down. The food, water, and air conditioning were all inspected and tested, to no avail. The big break came when a waitress at the restaurant was rushed to the hospital with similar symptoms. She told doctors that she had recently been on vacation, and had only went to the restaurant to pick up her check. She did not eat or drink while she was there, but had used the restroom. That is when one toxicologist, remembering an article he had read, drove out to the restaurant, went into the restroom, and lifted the toilet seat. Under the seat, out of normal view, was a small spider. The spider was captured and brought back to the lab, where it was determined to be the South American Blush Spider (Arachnius gluteus), so named because of its reddened flesh color. This spider's venom is extremely toxic., but can take several days to take effect. They live in cold, dark, damp, climates, and toilet rims provide just the right atmosphere. Several days later a lawyer from Los Angeles showed up at a hospital emergency room. Before his death, he told doctors, that he had been away on business, had taken a flight from New York, changing planes in Chicago, before returning home. He did not visit Big Chappies while there. He did, as did all of the other victims, have what was determined to be a puncture wound, on his right buttock. Investigators discovered that the flight he was on had originated in South America. The*

(turn the page)

### **75 Years Ago . . .**

October 29, 1945, the first commercially successful ballpoint pen went on sale at Gimble's department store in New York City. The "Reynolds Rocket" sold for \$12.50, or about \$178.00 in 2019 dollars.

### **Remembering A Great Actor**

*"The doctor gave me about six months to live, but when I couldn't pay the bill he gave me six months more."*

Walter Matthau, born October 1, 1920

## Rave Reviews!

*“Terry and his team did a thorough inspection at my mom’s home. They were both honest, patient and kind. They made good recommendations for my mom to reduce rodent access to her roof, etc. I highly recommend Termite Terry!”*

Katherine Chard  
Huntington Beach

*“Terry was referred to us because we thought we had a (self diagnosed) flea problem. My husband had been eaten alive by something, we have two dogs, it’s summertime . . . so that was our conclusion. Well after an hour of looking for those little suckers, he didn’t find a thing except for a few dead bugs. Well, instead of selling me something I didn’t need, he said there were no fleas, and not much else to do. The one thing he did say though that brought his other clients comfort – and if my elderly husband was a family member, that we should take a trip to the dermatologist for further workup. Well that is much appreciated. Terry is honest, thorough, and super experienced. I am now switching from Western Exterminator to Termite Terry for all of my pest control needs. Thanks Terry, Melissa and Jennifer.”*

Samantha Zone  
Dana Point

*“Our first meeting was with Termite Terry in 2007. We had drywood and subterranean termites. We interviewed other companies but Terry seemed to be the most knowledgeable. It was a good decision to go with him.*

*We have the outside of our home treated every 2 months and we have had no ants since we started this service. Termite Terry and his team always take care of our problems with ants, termites, silverfish, etc. Brayden is particularly thorough – we are very impressed with him.”*

Susan Kessler  
Costa Mesa

*Civilian Aeronautics Board (CAB) ordered an immediate inspection of the toilets of all flights from South America, and discovered the Blush spider’s nests on 4 different planes! It is now believed that these spiders can be anywhere in the country. So please, before you use a public toilet, lift the seat to check for spiders. It can save your life! And please pass this on to everyone you care about.”*



### Debunking This Story

If you do your research, you’ll find these holes in his story:

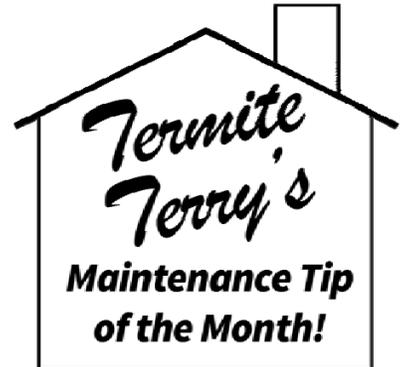
- There is no such thing as “The Journal of United Medical Association.
- There is no spider with a genus by the name of *Arachnius*.
- The specific epithet “gluteus” does not mean “red flesh” but indeed means buttocks.
- Because of the chemicals used in airliner toilets, the environment of these toilets would be too caustic for the successful transport and survival of spiders.
- Instead of using the name of O’Hare Airport, he changed it to say Blare Airport. There is no Blare Airport in Chicago.
- There was no Big Chappies restaurant in Chicago. The author of this hoax did not want to harm any real establishments.
- There is no Civilian Aeronautics Board. There was a Civil Aeronautics Board that was started in 1958, but it was dissolved in 1984. Also, the actual CAB’s main focus was on air traffic issues, not on airline health aspects.

The author of this hoax says that he

probably sent this story out to a dozen people. It is so amazing that his story went worldwide.

As Sir Walter Scott said it so well,

***“O, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practise to deceive.”***



### It’s Time To Get Ready – The Rains Are Coming!

It has been many months since we’ve had any measurable rain fall in Orange County, but we all know the rains are coming this winter.

To protect your home’s foundation and to prevent expensive water damage, you need to keep water away from it. Excessive moisture around your home can cause:

- Mold
- Dryrot damage
- Moisture damage to your home’s interior and furnishings
- Insect, termite and rodent infestations
- Foundation damage. This is a major issue as you may see cracks in the foundation, uneven floors, settling, bowed walls, or doors that won’t open and close properly.
- Drowned plants, grass and flowers

Here are some things for you to check around your home:

**1. Foundation slope.** If you have a drainage problem, the first thing to

check is to see if the ground around your home is graded away from its foundation. The soil around your home should fall six inches vertically for the first ten feet away from the foundation. Check patio slabs and walkways, too. Remember, if you pour a bucket of water up next to the house, all of the water should run away from the foundation.

Minor grading issues may be easy for you to correct with typical garden tools. In other cases, you'll need to consult with a licensed contractor who specializes in this field.

**2. Faulty grade levels.** Most building codes say that there should be a minimum of four to six inches between the prevailing soil levels and the top of the slab. If your home has wood or composite siding, you should maintain at least eight inches between the soil and siding.

If you only have a few small areas that need regrading, you may be able to take care of them yourself. Some homes may need substantial work, and that is where you'll probably need to hire a professional.

### **3. Planters that collect water.**

During heavy rains, many of these planters will collect water which may go right under the foundation and cause settling. Or, the water may actually run through the walls and into your home.

If the planters around your home are filling up with rain water, this is something you'll need to have fixed before it starts raining.

**4. Rain gutters** are a great way to promote good drainage. If you haven't checked them lately, this is the time of the year to clean them out and to ensure they are in good shape. You should also take a close look at the gutter downspouts. There should at least be an elbow on the bottom of

the spout to direct water away from the house. Splash blocks, placed under these spouts, will improve the flow of water away from the foundation. In some cases, you may consider having extensions added to these downspouts that will direct the water even further away from the house.

These tips will help keep your home dry this winter, and may save you a fortune in repair costs!

## **President's Economic Stimulus**

Our economy is continuing to grow and the President is working hard so we can do even better.

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

- Peggy Koga of Huntington Beach referred us to Thuy Dao of Huntington Beach.
- Kim Yeager of Whittier recommended us to Gaurang Shah of Whittier.
- George Evans of Costa Mesa referred us to Mary and Dan McClure of Corona Del Mar.
- Scott Taylor of Foothill Ranch referred us to Jaime Trinidad of Foothill Ranch.

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!

## **American Cheese Month!**

October is American cheese month. We enjoy a lot of cheese in the U.S., so let's learn some fun facts about this fine food:

- Americans eat about 34 pounds of cheese per year. Denmark leads the world by eating about 62 pounds per year!
- Cheesemaking has been around for about 4,000 years. We don't know who made the first cheese, but historical records indicate that travelers from Asia introduced cheesemaking to Europe before the start of the Roman Empire.
- Mozzarella is the top selling cheese in the U.S., followed by Cheddar.
- The first factory for the industrial production of cheese opened in Switzerland in 1815. However, successful mass production didn't begin until 1851, when Jesse Williams opened his assembly line in Rome, New York.
- It takes 10 pounds of milk to make just 1 pound of cheese.
- More than 25% of cheese is made in Wisconsin. The rest comes mostly from California, Idaho and New York.
- If you want to enjoy cheeses made with raw milk, such as Brie de Meaux, Reblochon, Valencay, Epoisses, Roquefort and Camembert de Normandie, you'll have to travel to France. These are banned for sale in the U.S.
- Cheese contains a protein called casein which strengthens tooth enamel and helps to prevent cavities. It also helps prevent acid from destroying tooth enamel.
- Serendipity's in New York City has the most expensive sandwich in the world. It starts with French bread made with Dom Perignon and baked with 23-karat gold throughout. It is stuffed with caciocavallo podolico, a very rare Italian cheese. It comes covered with a special Truffle spread and gold flakes. Only \$214.00! How many of these will you order for lunch today?

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## **Woman Severely Burned After Hand Sanitizer Catches Fire**

A woman was severely burned over her entire body after her hand sanitizer caught fire while she was trying to light a candle. The woman is continuing to recover after being admitted in the ICU.

The woman claims she put on a hand sanitizer to protect herself and three daughters from coronavirus. But when she lit a candle, her hand caught fire. When the flames hit the bottle of off-brand hand sanitizer she was holding, the bottle exploded. In a matter of seconds, her whole body was consumed in flames.

Her two youngest daughters ran to the neighbors for help. This amazing mother managed to get her burning clothes off, and rushed to get her disabled daughter and pets out of the house.

“It’s something that you never want your kids to see,” the woman said. “Like, you just being up in flames so I think that part kind of killed me just because it’s something I never wanted them to go through.”

Experts are warning everyone that flammable liquids and direct sunlight can make hand sanitizer explode. The Food and Drug Administration is also warning everyone to avoid using a growing list of hand sanitizers that may contain toxic substances. Some sanitizers have been found to contain methanol, which can be very dangerous when absorbed through the skin, inhaled, or ingested. The FDA’s list of hand sanitizers that people should avoid has now been expanded to nearly 100 brands, and nearly 150 varieties.

The FDA recommends you wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. By the way, if you still decide to use a hand sanitizer, please don’t light candles or a cigarette after you put it on your hands – that stuff is flammable!!!!



“Termite” Terry Singleton