

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

November 2020



www.termiteterry.com

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What You Need To Know - Rodent Infestations Are On The Rise!

This has been one of the toughest years for controlling rodents in Orange County we have ever seen. Homes and businesses that have never experienced rodent infestations in the past, are now being overrun by these pests.

For years, roof rats have been the most common rodent to infest homes and businesses, and they appear to be getting more aggressive than they were before.

Field mice are now becoming a big problem. This is something that we haven't seen much of before. Homes, especially the newer homes that were built in more rural areas, appear to be prime targets for these pests.

No one knows for sure why this is happening. Based on the rise in activity, it would seem to indicate that the population numbers of rodents have increased.

Our current drought may be a factor. We've had very little rainfall in 2020 and one could argue that rodents are finding the irrigated landscaping around homes and businesses to be extra attractive during these dry days.

Others believe that our Covid19 pandemic may be the cause of increased roof rat infestations. It is a known fact that roof rats frequently visit trash containers for food, especially near restaurants. With so many businesses now closed and with their trash dumpsters left empty, these rodents are forced to find other sources of food. This may explain why so many are seeing rodents invade new communities as never before.

The good news is that you can keep these rodent pests

from infesting most modern structures.

10 Tips To Keep Your Home Rodent Free!

1. **Close all exterior doors before dusk**, including garage doors. This is super important because these rodents become active after dark and they will gladly enter your home for food, water, and shelter. The evidence we've collected shows that most of the rodents found indoors have come through open doors.
2. **Check all exterior doors** to make sure they are tightly sealed. Any gaps larger than 1/4th of an inch will provide space for rodent entry. For gaps at the bottom of doors, we recommend metal door sweeps and/or the installation of new thresholds.
3. **Check any pet doors.** If these doors are not functioning properly, they will provide easy rodent access. We strongly recommend some of the newer pet doors that are equipped with magnets to keep them closed when not in use.
4. **Store garbage in sound, metal or plastic city containers** with tight lids. Please do this so you won't invite all of the rodents in your neighborhood to dine at your house every night.
5. **Trim your trees and vegetation.** Nine out of ten rodent infestations we see are caused by overgrown trees and vegetation. Trees must be cut back at least

(Keep readin')

100 Years Ago . . .

November 25, 1920, Westinghouse Electric launched KDKA radio in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is commonly cited as the world's first commercial radio station.

Remembering A Great Actor

"I shot my leg during a rehearsal! Thank God they were blanks."

Ricardo Montalban, born November 25, 1920

Rave Reviews!

"We just wanted to take a moment to say thank you and tell you how pleased we are to have used Termite Terry for our fumigation.

Skip was prompt and very professional as he walked us through all the steps needed to complete the process.

The workers that showed up to repair the wood on our patio cover were quick and did great work. The men who tented the house were polite and handled our house with care.

I would recommend Termite Terry to all our friends and family.

Thank you, once again for a job well done!"

Dan & Ginger Fisher
Huntington Beach

"Recently had several termite control companies come to inspect our home. Termite Terry's Skip Haffke seemed to be the most thorough in his inspection. Others weren't bad, Skip just seemed to be that much better. Had some wood repair work done by a two-man crew from Termite Terry led by Saul, I think that was his name. Can't remember the other man's name. They did good work, were courteous, and cleaned up the work areas after they were done. During the entire process, questions were addressed timely by Skip or Marie Chavez, Office Manager. Will turn to Termite Terry in the future when more work is needed."

Jim Fujimoto
Coto De Caza

"We needed a termite inspection done very quickly. They responded fast, came out immediately and did what was asked."

Kris Piper
Newport Beach

- four feet away from the house, with no branches hanging over the roof. Shrubs and vines should be kept four feet below the roofline.
6. **Discourage rodents from living too close to your home** by trimming or removing vegetation around its foundation. It is a good idea to crop the bottoms of shrubs and other plants to create an open space below them so the rodents have no place to hide. You may also have to move bird feeders and kennels away from your house.
 7. **Remove any long-term clutter or debris** to reduce nesting opportunities for rodents.
 8. **Check exterior attic, garage and subarea vents.** These should all be covered with 20-gauge wire screen of 1/4th inch mesh to exclude rodents.
 9. **Check air conditioning lines leading into homes, and clothes dryer vents.** The lines from air conditioners frequently have large holes going through the wall that allow for easy rodent access. Any holes around these lines should be sealed with mortar or wire mesh. Vents for clothes dryers that are damaged and/or have the vent doors stuck in the open position will also provide easy access into the home. These vents must be repaired or replaced to keep the rodents out.
 10. **Repair holes in exterior walls** with mortar. Wire mesh can be rammed into small holes as a temporary measure to keep out rodents.



How To Get Rid Of Mice And Rats

1. The first thing you should do is to complete the 10 steps listed above. There are a lot of mice and rats in

- Orange County and there is no way you'll ever be able to catch them all. The real secret of effective rodent control is to keep them out of your home or business so you don't have to spend the rest of your life chasing them!
2. Do not use poisonous baits on the inside of your home! I know, I know – The guys at the hardware store will always tell you to put out some of their "magic" mouse or rat bait and once they eat it, they will get thirsty and go outside to die. However, in the real world, that doesn't always happen. We frequently have to go out to a lot of homes and businesses to remove mice and rats that have been poisoned. Ask anyone that has had to endure the foul odor of a dead rodent and they will all agree that you shouldn't use poisonous baits on the inside!
 3. We highly recommend you use "old fashioned" wooden snap traps! They will take a bit more effort but they are well worth it. The secret to good trapping is to place the traps in a runway where the mice and rats frequent. Remember, mice and rats have very poor vision and always follow walls and surfaces with their whiskers. Please note that if you place the trap away from their pathway, they may never even see it, much less step on it.
 4. You may want to place rodent bait stations on the exterior of your home to help control the rat population. This works especially well in areas where the rodent population is high. However, bait stations should never be installed unless your home is rodent proofed, first!

Need help with rodent control?
Call our office at (949) 631-7348
and we'll schedule an appointment at your convenience.

Search Continues To Find Nest Of Murder Hornets

State Agricultural officials in Washington are continuing to search for a nest of Asian Giant Hornets. Their biggest concern is that these hornets could kill honeybees which are crucial for pollinating the state's blueberry and raspberry crops.

Last week, six hornets were found in Whatcom County. This number is roughly double the number of hornets previously found in the state, and could be an indication that there is a nest of these hornets in the immediate area.

"We believe we are dealing with a nest," said Sven-Erik Spichiger, a department entomologist. "We hope to locate the nest in a couple of weeks and eradicate it."

Asian giant hornets are the world's largest at two inches long. This insect is typically found in China, Japan, Thailand, South Korea and Vietnam. They were first discovered in Washington state last year. No one knows how this invasive insect arrived in North America.

A few hornets can destroy a beehive in a matter of hours. The hornets enter a "slaughter phase" where they kill bees by decapitating them. Once in control, they defend the hive as if it were their own, taking the brood to feed their young.

Asian hornets don't generally attack people or pets, but they can attack if they feel threatened. Their stinger is longer than a honeybee's and their venom is more toxic. They can also sting repeatedly, unlike a honeybee which can only sting one time before it dies.

A live Asian giant hornet was recently trapped and officials tried to glue a radio tag on it so they could

follow it back to the nest. Unfortunately, the radio tag fell off and the hornet was no longer able to fly. They are hoping to find another live hornet so they can try and do this again.

To date, fifteen of these hornets have been spotted since they were first discovered in the state.

President's Economic Stimulus

Our nation's economy is growing every month but we still have a lot of work to do.

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

- Gary and Jan Brady of Orange referred us to Betty Winter in Placentia.
- Odin Braathen of Costa Mesa recommended us to Rose Perez of Newport Beach.
- Larry Cope of Irvine referred us to Peggy Schmidt of Irvine.
- Melinda Mason of Newport Beach referred us to Julie Blumberg of Laguna Niguel.
- Debbie Musso from Coto De Caza referred us to Sheila Roth of Coto De Caza.

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!

National Sweet Potato Awareness Month

November is National Sweet Potato Awareness Month. The focus of this celebration is to inform people of the differences between sweet potatoes and yams.

There is a bit of confusion when it comes to the yam. What most people call a yam is actually a sweet potato, and it's possible that you've never even tasted a yam! Here are some fun facts for you to share with family and friends:

- A true yam is a starchy edible root and is generally imported from the Caribbean. It has a dry, starchy and more potato-like flesh that is usually not very sweet. Some yams are the size and shape of small potatoes; others can grow up to 5ft in length and weigh over 100 lbs. Most have a dark bark-like skin.
- Sweet potatoes are almost always sweeter than yams. They are more slender in appearance than a potato, and have tapered ends. In the U.S., the majority of sweet potatoes are sold in one of four varieties:
 - Rose color skin with orange flesh
 - Pale copper/tan skin with white flesh
 - Red skin, dry white flesh
 - Purple skin and flesh
- Sweet potatoes are very nutritious. They have more sugar, protein, calcium, iron, sodium, vitamin A, beta-carotene, and water than yams.
- Yams are also very nutritious. They have more fat, carbs, fiber, potassium, vitamin C, vitamin B6, and vitamin E than sweet potatoes.
- Yams are grown around the world, but 95% of them are grown in West Africa.
- In the U.S., over 50% of our sweet potatoes are grown in North Carolina.

Thanksgiving is almost here. Are you ready to put a big scoop of sweet potatoes on your plate and have a slice of sweet potato pie? I am!

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Man Blows Up His House With An Electric Fly Swatter!

An 82-year-old man accidentally blew up his house while trying to kill a fly with an electric fly swatter.

The man was about to eat dinner when he became annoyed by a fly buzzing around his head. That’s when he grabbed his “trusty” electric fly swatter and went after the fly. Unfortunately, he didn’t know there was a leaking gas canister nearby. The sparks from the fly swatter ignited the gas fumes and an explosion occurred. The kitchen was destroyed, and the roof of his home collapsed.

The man suffered burns to his hand after he threw himself onto the floor. He was later taken to a local hospital. At this time, no one knows if the fly survived.

Currently, this elderly man is living at a campsite while his home is being repaired.

Electric fly swatters are generally safe if used properly. These devices are battery powered and they zap bugs when you swing them.

However, it is interesting to note that a woman in Greece was reportedly burned on her legs after using an electric fly swatter – she had just applied an alcohol solution on her legs to treat mosquito bites. You’ve got to remember that electric sparks from these fly swatters can ignite flammable products! Any of you every use hand sanitizer? It’s probably not a good idea to use one of these electric devices after you’ve applied an alcohol-based sanitizer.

If you really want one of these “new-fangled” electric fly swatters, you can easily purchase them online or find them at your local hardware store. Meanwhile, if you really need a “safe” fly swatter, please call me and I’ll send you an old-fashioned plastic fly swatter at no charge.



“Termite” Terry Singleton