

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

May 2021



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## Inside This Issue...

- How To Keep Your Home Pest-Free 1
- Rave Reviews! 2
- A New Way To Save Our Trees? 2
- Spiders & Snakes Swarm Australia! 3
- President's Economic Stimulus 3
- National Egg Month! 3
- The Amazing Story Of Rat Island 4

## How To Keep Your Home Pest-Free This Summer

This is going to be a long and hot summer. Our lawns and plants are now green again, and all sorts of insects and rodents are coming back to life. That means it is only a matter of time before they start invading our homes and businesses.

With all of the rains behind us, it is time to start doing some spring cleaning around our homes and businesses. Here are some things you can do while you're cleaning up to help keep your home pest-free:

1. **Control excess moisture.** Insects and rodents are attracted by water and this should always be your **first step** when trying to prevent pest problems. Check for plumbing leaks, roof leaks, leaky rain gutters, etc. Check your lawn sprinkler system and make adjustments if needed. Insects and rodents need a lot of water and if you keep your home as dry as possible, these pests will find your home a lot less attractive.
2. **Eliminate food sources.** This is a completely natural way to control pests because if they don't have anything to eat, they will either die off or be forced to move to another location so they can survive. You can solve a lot of insect and rodent problems by not leaving dirty dishes in the sink, emptying your trash cans daily, and keeping your food in sealed containers. Check around your kitchen appliances and cabinets, and you may find food debris in these areas. By

cleaning up that stuff, you'll make your kitchen a lot less attractive for pests. If you have pets, please don't leave their food and water bowls out at night, because you'll frequently find ants, roaches and rodents eating and drinking out of them.

3. **Clean up leaf piles and debris** from around your homes and businesses. Insects and rodents cannot survive without a place to live, and by cleaning up this stuff, a lot of pests will disappear naturally.
4. **Keep all plants and trees cut back** away from your home. You should cut all trees back at least 4 feet away from your home, and make sure that none of the tree branches are left hanging over your roof. You'll find this to be a very effective control measure, because it discourages insects and rodents from entering your home or business.
5. **Remove fruit bearing plants that attract insects and rodents.** You may also want to remove other plants that harbor honey-dew producing insects (Fig trees, cherry laurel, bamboo, oleander, etc.). Honey-dew is a sugar-rich sticky liquid that is secreted by various insects, and ants love eating it.
6. **Keep firewood off the ground and store it away from your home.** Also, be sure to check for pests before bringing any firewood inside your home.
7. **Seal up cracks and holes on exterior walls.** This

(Turn the page)

### 100 Years Ago ...

On May 5, 1921, Chanel No. 5 perfume was launched. It was French couturier Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel's first perfume. Today, it is arguably still the world's most iconic brand.

### Celebrating Clint Eastwood!

*"It would be great to be 105 and still making films."*

Clint Eastwood, born May 31, 1930

## Rave Reviews!

*"I had Termite Terry Pest control over as we found a rat in our furnace closet. The gentleman who came by found right away how the rat got in and gave me suggestions FREE of charge. None required their service. I appreciated the honesty and I'll be having them do a termite inspection next. Very honest company!"*

Sarah Orendorff  
Costa Mesa

*"A long time ago, our garage had some strange bugs. I called and you guys came the same day to take care of it.*

*I think we live on an ant hill. There's nothing worse than a trail of ants. Using your bi-monthly service has kept them under control.*

*Everyone at your office has been kind and helpful. Thank you for meeting our needs."*

Rhonda Perales  
Yorba Linda

*"We recently discovered that we needed to have a termite inspection which concluded in the necessity of replacing a huge amount of damaged wood, as well as the dreaded tenting process!*

*There is no possible way to make this a pleasurable experience, but Termite Terry Pest Control, Skip, the carpenters and the office support staff made it as painless as possible. Skip definitely goes above and beyond to explain and guide you through the whole process (a hard job as he knows there is nothing pleasant about having this done)! I know they are not the least expensive, but you get what you pay for. Skip and the others know their stuff and are very professional. Would definitely recommend."*

Lynn Wegener  
Costa Mesa

helps to keep pests out and eliminates places for them to hide. Installing weather stripping around your doors and windows is also a great idea.

8. **Inspect the screens on your doors and windows.** By keeping these screens in good working order, you'll be able to keep a lot of pests out of your home. While you're at it, don't forget to check the screens in your attic, garage, and subarea vents. These screens are especially important because they keep out birds, rodents, and small animals.
9. **Guard against pest invaders** by checking incoming items for "hitchhiking" bugs. It is very common to see many types of pests brought in with luggage, laundry and groceries. You should also carefully inspect any flowers or plants before you bring them into your home, because you'll often find insects living in them.
10. **Ensure good ventilation** in attics, garages and subareas. An effective ventilation system will help keep these areas dry, will naturally reduce the amounts of insects, and will help to prevent mold and mildew problems.
11. **Keep food and garbage in tightly sealed containers.** This is especially important to do at night because that is when many pests are most active.

If you'll take these tips and put them to use, you'll find that you can prevent a lot of pest problems without using any pesticides. Sometimes, you may find that the application of a pesticide is still needed. If this is the case, you should always select the **least toxic** product, use the **least amount possible**, and **follow all** of the manufacturer's instructions.

Do you have a pest problem that you need help with? **Call us at (949) 631-7348**, and we'll be happy to schedule an appointment at your convenience.

## Scientists May Have Found A Way To Save Our Trees!

Scientists, from the University of Minnesota, have discovered a possible path forward in controlling the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). Since its introduction, this pest has become the most devastating invasive insect in the United States, and has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees.

In a recently published study, researchers identified various fungi living in emerald ash borer-infested trees. Through DNA sequencing, they identified types of fungi that will attack insects. They also found other types of fungi that cause cankers – which help kill trees that are infested with these pests.

"We discovered that several different species of fungi attack the emerald ash borer and other insects, and they can now be further tested for their potential biocontrol," said Robert Blanchette, the study's project leader. "This is a very important step in the search for a biocontrol for the emerald ash borer."

The scientists will continue building on their work to determine if any of the fungi can be used to kill the emerald ash borer.

"Ash trees are vitally important to Minnesota," said Rob Venette, director of the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center. "They reduce air pollution, storm water runoff, and cooling costs, all while increasing property values in local communities. It's critical we work to protect them from invasive pests."



## Spiders & Snakes Swarm Australia

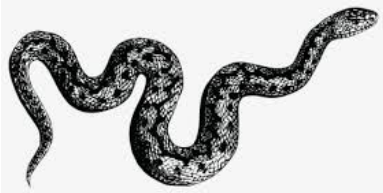
Swarms of spiders and snakes are scrambling to try and escape the flood waters in southeastern Australia.

As Matt Lovenfosse pulled up to his home in the morning, he was greeted by a carpet of brown – millions of spiders covering the ground.

“It’s amazing. It’s crazy,” he told a local news reporter. “The spiders all crawled up on to the house, on to fences and whatever they can get on to.”



Snakes are also seeking higher ground. Lovenfosse added, “The trees are full of snakes. If you take the boat out over the paddock, they swim towards it trying to get on something dry, same with the spiders.”



Melanie Williams was shocked by a swarm of spiders climbing the exterior walls of her home. Williams said, “I occasionally see spiders around the place but never anything like that, it was just insane.” She went on and told reporters that a neighbor of hers had twice as many spiders inside his garage.

Most of these spiders are harmless to humans. However, there are a number of funnel-web spiders that are also invading the area. Funnel-web spiders are exceptionally venomous, and potentially one of the most

dangerous spiders on the planet.

Close to 40 inches of rain has fallen in some areas. This excessive rain caused a major dam to overflow, adding even more water to swollen rivers. Flash floods are now occurring and some areas have been declared as disaster zones. About 18,000 people have had to be evacuated.

## President’s Economic Stimulus

The COVID-19 pandemic looks like it may be winding down and it is time for our country’s leaders to get back to work on growing our economy.

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

- Barbie Minard of Newport Beach referred us to Mary Kirst in Newport Beach.
- Peggy Koga of Huntington Beach recommended us to James Fujimoto of Coto De Caza.
- Linda Peterson of Modjeska Canyon referred us to Lenora Vasquez of Silverado.
- Peter Patel in Anaheim referred us to Dhirubhai Patel of Anaheim.

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!

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## May Is National Egg Month!

May is here and it is National Egg Month. Here are some fun facts about the incredible edible egg:

- The average person in the US eats over 290 eggs per year. If you eat a three-egg omelet every day, that means you’ll eat about 1,095 eggs per year!
- The US table egg production totaled at 96.9 billion in 2020.
- There is no nutritional difference between brown and white eggs. The color of the egg is determined by the color of the hen.
- White eggs are more popular with commercial producers because the chickens that lay white eggs tend to be smaller than their brown egg-laying cousins. Small chickens need less food to produce the same number of eggs.
- Iowa is the largest producer of eggs, followed by Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Texas. California is the number 10 producer.
- Traditionally, chef hats have pleats equal to the number of ways that you can cook an egg.
- The world’s largest egg was laid in England. It measured 9.1 inches in diameter!
- To check if an egg is fresh or stale, raw or hard boiled: Just spin it on the counter. If it wobbles, it’s raw. If it spins easy, it’s hard boiled. A fresh egg will sink in water, and a stale egg will float.
- The number of hens housed in conventional cage environments is decreasing. Today, 28% of all hens are in cage-free production. That is up from 14% in 2016.
- A hen requires about 24-26 hours to produce an egg. Once the hen lays an egg, the process starts all over again about 30 minutes later.

Don’t know about you but I’m ready for an omelet. Make mine with cheese, vegies and extra jalapenos! ☺

A FREE Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Clients of:

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I Guarantee It."**

## The Amazing Recovery Story Of "Rat Island"

The nesting seabirds have returned to Howadax Island after a coordinated conservation effort led to the removal of invasive rats.

In Alaska's Aleutian archipelago, there is a group of islands that are called the "Rat Islands". They were given this name by Captain Fyodor Petrovich Litke, in 1827, when he visited the Aleutian Islands on a voyage around the world. The non-native rats were accidentally introduced to these islands through shipwrecks, dating back to the 1700s, and World War II occupation.

These rats adapted well to life on these islands and they overwhelmed the ecosystems. The rats preyed upon shorebird eggs and chicks, and they nearly wiped out the island's breeding shorebird population. These birds consume invertebrates, such as snails and limpets. Without the birds, these plant-eaters flourished and the abundance of marine kelp was seriously impacted.

Of the 15 islands in this Rat Islands group, Howadax Island was selected as a study site for this conservation project. In 2008, members of the Aleutian Seabird Restoration Project worked to reverse the damage by ridding the island of rats.

Special rodent baits were dropped on the island from a helicopter. The baits were formulated to be palatable for about two weeks, so as to lessen the probability of non-target poisoning. The treatment was successful and the island was officially declared as rat-free in 2010.

Researchers returned to the island to collect data in 2013, and found the numbers of birds to be significantly higher. In 2019, the researchers declared that the island's ecosystem had fully recovered. They saw a significant increase in marine kelp, the numbers of plant eaters had greatly decreased, and the numbers of birds had increased significantly. "We were surprised that the level of recovery unfolded so quickly – we thought it could take longer," said Carolyn Kurle, associate professor from UC San Diego.

This is great news and I'm proud that our pest control industry was able to help make this conservation effort a success.



"Termite" Terry Singleton