

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

February 2022



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Spring Is The Time To Start Preventing Pest Problems

Spring is just around the corner and it is time for us all to start looking for ways to prevent pest problems. With the rains we've had this past winter, it will be only a matter of weeks before all sorts of pests start invading our homes and businesses.

When you are cleaning up this spring, here are some things you can do **to help keep your home pest-free:**

1. **Control excess moisture.** Insects and rodents love water and this should always be your **first step** when trying to prevent pest problems. Look for plumbing leaks, roof leaks, leaky rain gutters, etc. Check your lawn sprinkler system and make adjustments if needed. Are you overwatering your landscaping? If so, you should cut back on your watering times. Insects and rodents need a lot of water and if you'll let things dry out a bit, 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, taking your trash out 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, don't leave their food and water bowls out at night because they can be like magnets for ants, roaches and rodents.
3. **Clean up leaf piles and debris** from around your homes and businesses. Insects and rodents cannot survive without a place to hide. 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.** This is an extremely effective control measure and it will prevent most rodent problems in homes and businesses!
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.). If you plan on keeping these fruit bearing plants, it is very important that you consistently pick up any fruits that fall onto the ground.
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)

75 Years Ago . . .

On February 21, 1947, Edwin Land demonstrated the first instant camera at the Optical Society of America. It was called the Polaroid Land Camera. The first commercial model went on sale to the public in November, 1948.

Remembering A Great Singer

"Six foot six he stood on the ground. He weighed two hundred and thirty-five pounds. But I saw that giant of a man brought down to his knees by love."

Johnny Cash, born February 26, 1932

Rave Reviews!

“They did a great job and everything went well. The inspector, Erik came out, did the inspection, gave us an estimate and explained the process. I will definitely use them again and will recommend their services.”

Ann Muthalampet
Los Alamitos

“Six months ago, we had another company come out and they didn’t fix our rodent problem. With Termite Terry Pest Control, they found the real cause of this problem and fixed it. Thanks for your help.”

Jesus Ochoa
Irvine

“Termite Terry is simply the best, most thorough, honest pest control company in California, and at a reasonable price. We have used Termite Terry for over 10 years including a tenting and bi-monthly pest control service. Our home is in Huntington Beach and is surrounded with shrubs, flowers and trees.

Terry does a lot of little things that goes beyond the norm. For example, we had Terry come out to treat for silverfish inside our home. Terry moved carpets, furniture, throw rugs and other obstacles. He treated and replaced everything (better than original).

You can feel assured that Terry will do the best job possible.”

John Cairns
Huntington Beach

helps to keep pests out and eliminates places for them to hide. Installing weather stripping around your doors and windows is also a great way to keep pests out of your home or business.

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.

Coastal Commission Approves Plan To Use Rodenticides On The Farallon Islands Mice

California’s Coastal Commission voted 5-3 to approve a plan for dropping rodenticide-laced pellets on the Farallon Islands. The goal of this plan is to eradicate all of the non-native house mice that have been wreaking havoc on the Islands’ native species.

The Farallon Islands are located about 30 miles west of San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge. This National Wildlife Refuge is hosts to the largest nesting seabird colony in the contiguous U.S., including half of the Ashy Storm-Petrels in the world and the largest breeding populations of Brandt’s Cormorants and Western Gulls.

It is believed that the house mice, along with cats and rabbits, were brought to the islands by way of ships in the early 1900s. This is when people were doing egg gathering, building lighthouses, and performing military operations.

The cats and rabbits were removed in the 1970s, but no one ever did anything about the mice.

Mice will eat just about anything. On the islands, they eat the Maritime goldfield (a plant), the endemic Farallon camel cricket, and the Farallon arboreal salamander. This reduced the populations of these native species and further disrupted the island ecosystem. Evidence of mice preying on petrels has also been found.

During the springtime, the house mice can reach plague-like densities of about 490 mice per acre!

Burrowing Owls are among the 400 different species of land birds found on the islands. These owls usually stop to rest here, and then leave a few days later. But with so

many mice there to eat, some owls decide to stay. The mice population naturally declines in December and January. That is when some owls will start eating the small storm-petrels. This problem has been documented in studies that showed some 90 percent of owl pellets collected contained storm-petrel remains. Studies also showed that an average of 225 storm-petrels are consumed by the owls, annually.



Researchers believe that if the house mice were no longer present, the owls would have little motivation to stay.

Forty-nine alternatives to solve this problem were considered by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. It was determined that the broad-scale application of rodenticides was the only proven method to rid an island as large as this of the house mice.

The proposed mice eradication program is quite complicated, and will include numerous measures to help ensure the safety of the island ecosystem.

While not everyone is happy with this decision, it is supported by the National Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy.

The plan is to drop the poisoned bait by helicopter and hand. The airdrop is scheduled to occur in November and December of this year.

President's Economic Stimulus

The price of oil is near \$87 per barrel and that is the highest price in the last eight years. This is a major reason of why the price of gasoline is continuing to climb. Termite Terry "feels your pain" and wants to help by giving you a FREE tank of gas.

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

- Dennis D'Ambra of Huntington Beach referred us to Shawn Aram of Huntington Beach.
- Jason Shelton of Rancho Santa Margarita recommended us to Aurelian Margineanu of Rancho Santa Margarita.
- Mike Hill of Huntington Beach referred us to Sarah Silk of Newport Beach.
- Leilani Nelson of Newport Beach referred us to Jamuna Santos of Newport 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!



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Fascinating Facts About Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is coming up on February 14th. Let's take a look at some fascinating facts of the most romantic day of the year:

- Pope Gelasius declared February 14th as Valentine's Day in 496 A.D.
- During the 14th and 15th centuries, the day became associated with romantic love because many believed that birds started their mating season on February 14th. In 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion where couples expressed their love for each other by exchanging flowers, candy, and greeting cards.
- Americans will spend an average of \$165 on their loved ones for Valentine's Day. Total spending should add up to about \$22 billion!
- The National Retail Foundation says that 54 percent of consumers plan to give candy to their loved ones, while 44 percent give greeting cards. Another 36 percent plan to give flowers, while 21 percent plan to give gift cards. One out of five consumers plan to give clothing.
- Sweetheart candies may be the sweetest way to celebrate Valentine's Day. In addition to the classic messages, they have added new sayings inspired by timeless song lyrics. Some of them are: Lean On Me, Crazy N Luv, Still The 1, I'll Be There, and Luv Me Tender.
- The only other day that beats Valentine's Day in floral sales is Mother's Day.
- Ordering a bouquet? Have it tied up in lace. The word "lace" comes from the Latin word "*laques*", meaning "to snare or net", as in "to catch a person's heart".
- According to a survey, 53 percent of women said they would dump their significant other if they don't get anything for Valentine's Day. Guys, you've been warned. Get on the phone and place your orders!

A FREE Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Clients of:

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**“You’re Going To Love Living In A Pest Free Home.
I Guarantee It.”**

Homes That Smell Clean And Like Bleach Could Be Bad News

If you are looking to buy a home, most of us would think that a clean smell is a good thing. But if you ever walk into a home and you start getting strong whiffs of bleach, this could be bad news.

A real estate agent was showing a home to prospective buyers and every time she went there, she noticed that the home had a strong chlorine smell.

The agent found another pair of buyers who wanted to see this home. The seller of this home was there when they arrived. When she opened the door and let them in, it was dark inside. The first thing that hit the buyers was the smell of smoke, and on top of that there was a strong chlorine scent.

The agent and the prospective buyers didn’t think much more about the home’s smells. They assumed that the owner had just cleaned something up. The buyers continued their tour of the home. When they got to the garage, they did notice quite a few pets inside.

On the day of the final walk-through, the strong chlorine smell was still there. But the buyers were so excited that they went ahead and closed the deal, anyway.

The buyers started remodeling their new home right away. When they pulled up the flooring, they found what the previous owner had been trying to cover up – the floors were full of urine from previous owner’s pets! The smell was so bad that they could hardly keep from throwing up. Even the subflooring was soaked in urine, so they had to replace all of that, as well. This was a major and unexpected expense.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you’re looking to buy a home and it has a strong smell of bleach, that may be a red flag warning. I’d also recommend you order a thorough home inspection before you decide to buy. You don’t need any more expensive surprises!



“Termite” Terry Singleton