

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

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

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## How To Control Those Pesky Ants

According to the National Pest Management Association, ants are the number one pest that homeowners need help with. The owners of restaurants, hospitals, warehouses, and other buildings, frequently need help with these pests, also.

Why are ants such a big problem and why do so many home and business owners have such a hard time controlling them? One of the main reasons is because most people don't really understand the basic biology and behavior of ants. In this article, we'd like for you to learn some of these basics so you can keep your home or business free of ants this summer.

### The basics you need to know about ants

Ants are a member of the family of insects, known as "Hymenoptera". Bees and wasps are also members of that same family. There are over 12,000 species of ants worldwide. In California, we have about 200 species but less than a dozen of these are considered to be pests.

You should keep in mind that ants readily adapt to changes in conditions. If the weather changes, their food supply is altered, or if something is moved around – They will adapt, keep on working and building their families.

Another important fact is that many ant colonies will merge with other colonies. For example, let's say you find an ant hill and destroy it. Yes, some of the ants will die, but the remaining ants will simply move in and start living

with another colony next door. No wonder these pests are so frustrating to deal with!

### Important facts:

- Most ants don't like living indoors. They just come in to get what they need and then leave.
- You need to find out how the ants are getting inside.
- Sealing up their entry points is the best control method.

If you are having a problem with ants on the inside, the first thing you should do is to start by inspecting the rooms where the ants are. Pay extra attention to areas under the edges of your carpet because it is common to find ants foraging in these areas. Look carefully along baseboards and bottoms or edges of cabinets. A spatula is a great tool to use when inspecting tiny cracks, joints or seams.

Ants use pheromones to lay out trails that connect to their colony. The primary function of these trails is to lead the ants to food.

### Don't Manage Ant Trails!

It is very common to see people spray down trails of ants with their favorite store-bought product. This usually doesn't work. Yes, you may kill off **1 percent** of the ants by spraying down their trails, but the remaining ants will simply begin taking a detour around the areas where you  
(turn the page)

### 70 Years Ago . . .

On May 1, 1952, the children's toy Mr. Potato Head went on sale. It was manufactured and distributed by Hasbro. The previous day, it also became the first toy advertised on U.S. Television. This toy is still being sold today.

### Remembering a great actor and writer

*"I prefer people who rock the boat to people who jump out."*

Orson Welles, born May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1915

# Rave Reviews!

*"I just want to let you know of how pleased I am that I chose "Termite Terry" to treat my house for termites several weeks ago. Skip was absolutely wonderful to me. I must have driven him crazy with all of my questions and fears about tenting. He patiently and quickly returned all of my texts and calls over many weeks, even months. It took me a really long time to decide to finally do it. Also, the crew that did my repairs was wonderful. They were respectful of my house and all my plants. I couldn't be happier.*

*Thank you for a job well done. I hope that I don't need you again for many years, but I will recommend your company to anyone considering termite treatment services.*

*Thank you very much, sincerely."*

Rachel Levin  
Costa Mesa

*"I had a terrible bee infestation at my house. Termite Terry handled the problem in a very professional way. They removed the hives, sprayed detergent, repainted the roof and walls, and left everything well cleaned."*

Suely Feilhaber  
Irvine

*"I have been using Termite Terry Pest Control services for 16 years. Their staff, from Melissa to the owner Terry Singleton, is superb. They have been treating my house on a regular basis, and because of that, I have been bug-free!"*

Leonard W.  
Irvine

applied the pesticide, and you'll still have an ant problem.

In most cases, you'll find that the ants are entering your home or business from points on the exterior of the structure. Look for areas where you see cracks in the foundation, holes in walls, cracks in the slab, and points where wires and pipes enter the structure. Pay special attention to areas where plants or trees are touching the house. You should also look under mulch, firewood and stored items/clutter.

You'll note that in the previous paragraph, we told you to pay special attention to plants or trees that are touching the structure. The reason why this is so important is because so many of these plants are infested with aphids, mealy bugs, white flies and scales – All of which produce honeydew. Honeydew is a sugary-sweet, sticky liquid these plant infesting pests secrete, and it is a favorite food of many ant species.

So, think of it this way; **if you have a candy factory (plants and trees with honeydew) growing next to the structure, you are always going to have an ant problem.** The ants will find it to be simply irresistible! That is why it is so important to keep plants cut back – away from your structure.

If your plants are infested, you should really consider using a product that will help to control these pests, such as a **systemic insecticide**. These products are applied by drenching or injecting the soil beneath the plants. The plants will absorb these products and then, when plant infesting pests start eating your plants, they will ingest these products and die off. That will significantly reduce the amount of honeydew. And, with less food to eat, the populations of ants will then begin to dwindle.

## How To Gain Control!

1. A thorough inspection is the first step. You need to find out how these pests are getting into your home or business. In most cases, you will find them coming in from the exterior. If you find cracks,

holes or other openings where ants are gaining access, you need to seal off these entry points.

2. Identify the kind of ant you are dealing with. This is very important because there is no single treatment plan that will work for all ant species. In fact, if you perform the wrong treatment or use an incorrect product, you can easily make your problems even worse.
3. Determine why the ants are attracted to the area. Is it because you have an excessive moisture problem? Is it because you have a food source problem, such as honey dew infested plants? Once you have figured out why they like the area so much, you need to correct the situation. By doing this, you will reduce the amount of insecticides needed to gain control and greatly improve your results.
4. Perform a treatment using the least toxic, and the lowest amounts of insecticides possible. We strongly recommend using **non repellent products** because they are "stealth like", and won't cause ants to scatter or spread out to other areas (Ants can't detect these products and won't know they've been exposed until it's too late). Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions, carefully.
5. Evaluate your results. You're not always going to get perfect results on your first effort. Ants are very persistent, and you may have to perform additional treatments.

Please keep in mind that today's pesticides are designed to breakdown after only 30 to 60 days. That is why we recommend that pest control services be done on either on a monthly, or on an every other month basis.

Are you having a problem with ants or other pests and need help? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we'll schedule a Pest Audit for you. And, please remember that our **Pest Audits** are always **FREE** for qualified home and business owners.

## Termite Terry Sponsors the UCR Urban Pest Management Conference

UC Riverside recently held its Urban Pest Management Conference and Termite Terry was proud to be a sponsor of the event. This was the 31<sup>st</sup> time that this annual conference has been held.

Dr. Rudolf Scheffrahn (University of Florida), Dr. Dong-Hwan Choe (UC Riverside), Dr. Chow-Yang Lee (University of Riverside), and Dr. Niamh Quinn (University of California Extension Human-Wildlife Interactions Advisor), were just some of the featured speakers. We also heard from representatives of the Structural Pest Control Board, Department of Agriculture, IPM advisors from the University of California Extension Centers, and many others.



Termite Terry speaking at the event

Termite Terry said, *"This is a power-packed conference and my only complaint is that it should have lasted for two or three days. There is so much information to be learned at this event, and it is a great way for all pest management professionals to stay updated."*

## President's Economic Stimulus

With the war in Ukraine continuing on, it doesn't look like the price of crude oil will be going down in the near future. 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 his Economic Stimulus Plan:

- Bill McCandless of Long Beach referred us to Sue Rich of Irvine.
- Jackie Sookwongse of Anaheim recommended our service to John McGovern of Brea.
- Katheryn Morse of Newport Beach referred us to Terry Sprague of Lakewood.
- Kathryn Morse, of Newport Beach, really likes getting free gasoline! She also referred our service to Braedon Dung 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!

## National Vinegar Month!

May is National Vinegar Month, so let's take a look at some fun facts about this popular ingredient:

- Vinegar is a sour liquid that is made by the fermentation of apples, grapes, malted barley or oats, rice, and other substances.
- Vinegar contains acetic acid, has a low pH value, and is used as a preservative for both domestic use and in the food industry. A wide variety of foods are preserved, or pickled, with vinegar.
- The name vinegar, comes to us from the French word, "vin aigre", which literally means sour wine.
- History tells us that the ancient Babylonians started making vinegar around 3000 BC.
- In 1673, production of vinegar became so profitable that the British government established a tax on so-called vinegar-beer.
- Roman soldiers used to drink posca, which was a mix of water and vinegar. They believed it gave them strength.
- In the early 1880s, Henry J. Heinz became the first to package vinegar in individual bottles for home use.
- Vinegar can be used as a meat tenderizer. Mix with heated oil, rub it into the meat, and let it stand for at least two hours. Then, place it on the grill and cook it to perfection.
- Vinegar is a great cleaning agent for kitchen counters, cutting boards, and appliances.
- Vinegar can be kept indefinitely in a sealed container at room temperature.
- Have you ever made a rubber egg? Place a fresh egg in a jar and soak it in white vinegar for 3-5 days. This will cause the shell to fall off and your egg will now feel and bounce like a rubber ball. To have even more fun, add food coloring to the vinegar and create any color of egg you wish. Your kids will love it!

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## Ukrainian Bees Attack Russian Soldiers

A Ukrainian news site is reporting that a brigade of bees attacked and killed three Russian soldiers, and sent 25 more to the hospital.

It is believed that the bees originated from a hive that was located near the village of Chelburda, in the Oleshkovsky district. The bees then flew into a nearby Russian camp, where they attacked the soldiers.

The exact species of bee that attacked the Russian soldiers is not known. Though not typically found in Europe, they could have been Africanized honey bees.

Africanized honey bees can be especially dangerous because they will often attack people in far greater numbers. When a person receives multiple stings, this can become life threatening to those who are allergic, or have a limited capacity to escape. It is also important to remember that these “killer bees” will continue to attack for a long distance, so it is very hard to outrun them.

According to the United Kingdom’s Daily Star, this is the second time that nature has gotten in the Russian’s way during this war. They reported that a pair of wild geese were previously blamed for causing a Russian plane to fall from the sky and crash into a swamp.

Russia’s attack on Ukraine has been devastating and many of Ukraine’s cities now lie in total ruin. The Ukrainians have fought back hard and they are pleading for their allies to send more equipment to aid in their fight for freedom.

Knowing that they are short on equipment, I’m curious to find out if you think that the Ukrainians triggered this bee attack? Could this be the beginning of a new form of weaponry, called “all-natural warfare?” ☺



“Termite” Terry Singleton