

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

June 2024



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



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## Is The Damage Caused By Dryrot?

We get a lot of calls from Orange County homeowners who tell us they have damaged wood on their homes that they would like to have repaired. When we ask them what caused the damage, many of them don't know.

In last month's newsletter, we discussed the different types of termite damage, and how to deal with it. In this article, we will discuss dryrot and how you can get your home back into top shape.

### The different types of dryrot

Dryrot is caused by wood-destroying (decay) fungi. These decay fungi are living organisms that live on dead trees and lumber products. There are three main types of dryrot that do major damage to our homes and buildings:

- Brown rot
- White rot
- *Poria incrassata*

### What does brown rot damage look like?

Brown rot is the most common of these wood destroying fungi. Severely decayed wood is dark brown in color, and breaks up into irregular chunks resulting from shrinkage cracks, both across and in different directions of the grain. Brown rot will cause wood to lose strength and lose structural integrity before the rot is even visible. This fungus can also reactivate if the wood becomes damp again. Damage can occur rapidly.

When inspecting for brown rot, look at the damaged

portion to see if the wood is breaking up into little brown chunks. If you break out one of these chunks with a knife or screwdriver, it will appear similar to a small piece of charcoal – but it is brown in color.

### What Does white rot damage look like?

Wood damaged by white rot will have a "bleached out" appearance. Use your knife or screwdriver to start picking away at this type of damage and you'll see that the wood comes off in a "stringy" form and it looks similar to moistened "Shredded Wheat" cereal. White rot damaged wood will also have a "spongy" appearance because the infected wood members will literally start shriveling up like an "old kitchen sponge". White rot will cause wood to become light in weight, soft, and very weak. Damage can occur rapidly.

### What does poria incrassata damage look like?

This is a specialized brown rot fungus and it can be very destructive to structures. One of the reasons why this fungus is so destructive is because it produces roots (Rhizomorphs) which will supply water from a source that is 30 feet (or more) away from the active infestation.

When inspecting damage, you'll see the same "cubical checking" as you would with brown rot. Look for fruiting bodies (similar to the head of a mushroom) that are brown to orange to purple in color. Some of these may be

(turn the page)

### 100 Years Ago . . .

On June 27, 1924, Lena Springs became the first woman in the USA to be nominated as a Vice Presidential candidate.

### Remembering Ray Charles

*"To me, music is entertainment – what else can it be? In fact, it's the only language I know of that's universal."*

Ray Charles, died June 10, 2004

## Rave Reviews!

### Termite Terry Pest Control Receives 2024 Best of Costa Mesa Award!

COSTA MESA March 13, 2024 -- Termite Terry Pest Control has been selected for the 2024 Best of Costa Mesa Award in the Pest Control Service category by the Costa Mesa Award Program.

Each year, the Costa Mesa Award Program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Costa Mesa area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2024 Costa Mesa Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Costa Mesa Award Program and data provided by third parties.

About Costa Mesa Award Program  
The Costa Mesa Award Program is an annual awards program honoring the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Costa Mesa area. Recognition is given to those companies that have shown the ability to use their best practices and implemented programs to generate competitive advantages and long-term value.

The Costa Mesa Award Program was established to recognize the best of local businesses in our community. Our organization works exclusively with local business owners, trade groups, professional associations and other business advertising and marketing groups. Our mission is to recognize the small business community's contributions to the U.S. economy.

as large as a dinner plate.

If you suspect a problem with poria, we strongly recommend that you hire an expert who can find the roots, which are feeding this fungi, and eliminate them. Poria is like brown rot on "steroids", and it will quickly destroy a home.

### 8 Tips To Help Prevent Dryrot

1. In areas where the decay hazard is high, it is best to use the heartwood of a decay-resistant species. Redwood and western red cedar are good choices. You may also want to have the wood treated with a good preservative.
2. When building a new home, always make sure your site is "well-drained". You do not want water seeping under the house. Larger roof overhangs, rain gutters and downspouts can be very effective. Also, remember that you should never place untreated wood within 18 inches of the ground.
3. On homes with a raised foundation, make sure you have adequate cross ventilation. A good rule of thumb is to provide two square feet of opening for 25 feet of wall. Keep vegetation cut back away from subarea vents so they won't restrict air flow.
4. In areas where you have soil with a high moisture content, install a moisture barrier on the soil surface. This will cause the moisture to condense on the bottom of the plastic barrier and return to the soil, instead of condensing on the floor and structural members of your home.
5. Don't mount wood directly on concrete unless you are using treated wood. On items like patio or porch post, it is a very good idea to use metal or plastic spacers to keep wood up and off the concrete. This will help prevent the wood from "wicking up" water from rain or lawn sprinklers.
6. Control moisture. If you have plumbing leaks, roof leaks, sprinklers spraying against the house, or any other situation

where wood is getting wet, have it fixed as soon as possible.

7. Repair or replace damaged wood because all of those cavities or holes caused by termites are easy places for moisture to collect and start dry rot.
8. Seal exterior wood with caulk and paint. This will help to keep moisture out.



### How To Repair Dry Rot

When doing repairs, **always try and control the moisture source, first.** If you don't, the problem will simply continue.

Minor dry rot damage can often be carved out, treated with a registered fungicide, and repaired with a quality wood filler.

Wood members which are heavily damaged should be cut out and replaced. You should always cut out damage at least one foot beyond the rotted areas. Some make the mistake of placing another piece of wood right along side of a dry rotted member so they can "brace it up". Don't do this, because the dry rot will quickly attack the new wood. The only exception to this rule is when you are working in an area where you can completely eliminate all moisture, such as in a wall or under a house. **Remember that dry rot is like cancer, and it will quickly spread unless you can completely eliminate all of it.**

Have a problem with dry rot damage on your home or business and need help in repairing it? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we'll be happy to schedule an appointment at your convenience.

## Are Roach Nails The Latest Fashion?

Looks like we may be on the cutting-edge of a new manicure fashion where the ladies will be putting roaches on their fingernails.

In a recent cover shoot, Emily Ratajkowski was seen making her latest fashion statement – where she literally had a cockroach on one of her fingernails!

Her nail artist filed her nail extensions into a chic almond shape, and painted them white. He then added a roach accent for a unique effect. The 3D roach is very real looking, with antennae and little legs that will give most people the chills.



Not sure if you ladies are into this new fad. In case you are, let us know and we'll be happy to round up some nice-looking roaches for your nails. ☺

## The Best Of Costa Mesa Award!



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Termite Terry Pest Control has received the "Best of Costa Mesa" award. This will be the sixth consecutive year that this company has won the award. We are proud to be honored this way, and we want to thank our entire staff for making this possible.

## President's Economic Stimulus

The Organization of Oil Exporting Countries will be meeting this month, and their goal is to increase the price of oil and gas. President 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:

- Marcie Franklin of Newport Beach referred us to Denise Schoenberg of Newport Beach.
- Alix Wright of Newport Beach recommended our service to Kathy Kavanaugh of Newport Beach.
- Jenni Frank of Newport Beach referred us to Jodi Berger of Foothill Ranch.
- Nathan Chen of Irvine recommended our services to Hamilton Chen of Laguna Niguel.

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 Sorghum Month

June is National Sorghum Month, so let's look at some fun facts about this multi-faceted grain:

- The earliest evidence of sorghum was found in Nabta Playa, an 8,000-year-old Neolithic site in Africa.
- In 1757, Benjamin Franklin wrote about using sorghum to make brooms. This is the first known record of sorghum in the U.S.
- Sorghum ranks fifth among the most important cereal crops of the world, after wheat, rice, corn, and barley.
- Only six inches of water is needed to produce a 56-pound bushel (water from the soil, rainfall and/or irrigation)!
- There are four main types of sorghum: grain, forage, biomass, and sweet.
- Sorghum syrup is made from sweet sorghum, and it can be used in place of corn syrup, honey, molasses, and other sweeteners.
- The U.S. is the top producer of sorghum in the world. Kansas is the top producing state, followed by Texas, South Dakota, Colorado, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.
- About 30-35 percent of domestic sorghum is used for ethanol production. 2.7 gallons of ethanol can be made from just one bushel!
- Some varieties of sorghum have greater antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties than blueberries and pomegranates.
- Sorghum is gluten-free.
- About one-third of our sorghum is used for livestock feed. It is also used in many pet food products, and as aquatic feed.
- Some starches that are used to make adhesives and paper, are derived from sorghum.

If you are looking for a new snack, try popping some sorghum tonight. It is just like popcorn, only smaller. ☺

A FREE Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Clients of:

**"Termite" Terry Pest Control, Inc.**

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## **Man Found Dead In Jail After Being Eaten Alive By Bed Bugs**

A man was found dead in his jail cell after being eaten alive by insects and bed bugs, according to his lawyer.

This man was arrested last summer for battery. Since they determined he was mentally ill, they placed him in the psychiatric wing at the county jail.

He was recently found unresponsive in his jail cell. The local police and medical personnel responded, and they failed to save his life. The man was later pronounced dead.

The coroner did not find any obvious signs of trauma, but he did note that the man’s entire body was covered in bed bugs. In a report by the police department, they noted that there was a severe bed bug infestation in the inmate’s cell.

According to a public records request, the jail’s records show the detention officers and medical staff had noticed that the inmate’s health was deteriorating. The cause of death was listed as undetermined.

The inmate’s lawyer said that a lawsuit in the case is pending.

In a statement, the Sheriff’s Office offered condolences to the deceased inmate’s family. The statement also said they would launch a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. As part of the investigation, they are approving an additional expenditure of \$500,000 to address the infestation of bed bugs, lice, and other vermin within the jail.

Ladies and gentlemen, I can appreciate that they are now going to address this jail’s pest problems, but it would appear they waited too long. I believe if you are convicted of a crime, you need to serve time. However, I also agree with the inmate’s attorney when he said that no one should be put in a place ‘not fit for a diseased animal’.



“Termite” Terry Singleton