

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

February 2026



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

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## Why Are There So Many Mosquitoes Biting Us This Winter?

A lot of Orange County residents are wondering why they have been getting so many mosquito bites during our winter months. Is this normal? Don't mosquitoes go into hibernation during the winter months?

This may surprise you, but not all mosquitoes die in the winter – especially in Southern California. The experts are telling us that our recent **heavy rains**, coupled with periods of **warm weather**, may be **turning our backyards into year-round mosquito factories!**

### Mosquito facts

- Mosquitos need water to complete their life cycle. From egg to adult, their development will take about 7-10 days.
- A large portion of mosquitoes are produced in residential backyards, in small breeding sources.
- A small bottle cap can hold enough water to produce mosquitoes!
- Only the female bites.
- Mosquitoes do not develop in grass or shrubbery. However, they will sometimes rest in those areas during the day.

### Key reasons for winter mosquitoes in OC

Mosquitoes are cold-blooded insects and they cannot regulate their body temperature. When the weather starts to turn cold, they become lethargic. Most will stop flying

altogether when the temperature goes below 50 degrees. Here is what they do to save themselves during the winter:

- Female members of the *Aedes genera*, such as the *Aedes aegypti*, or the *Aedes albopictus*, will lay their last eggs before it gets too cold. These eggs will be laid in places where water can collect and become stagnant (along the sides of containers, such as buckets, drip trays for potted plants, tires, or even in a bottle cap).

Now, here's what we have seen this winter:

1. We had a lot of rain, leaving standing water for these eggs to develop in.
  2. The sun came out after the rains, and the weather warmed up to their liking.
  3. With our "spring-like" weather, these mosquito eggs began to hatch, and now you know why we have mosquito problems in the winter.
- The other type of mosquito that we have a problem with is the *Culex genera*, which is also known as the "Southern House Mosquito". When our weather gets too cold for them, the females of this species will *Diapause* (they slow their metabolisms and remain in a paused state of development until warmer temperatures return).

(turn the page)

### 80 Years Ago . . .

On February 4, 1946, RCA gave the first U.S. demonstration of an all-electronic color television system. The first public demonstration was on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Remembering A Great Actor

*"It is an extra dividend when you like the girl you've fallen in love with."*

Clark Gable, born February 1, 1901

# Rave Reviews!

*"Hi Skip and Melissa,*

*I wanted to express my sincere appreciation for the truly exceptional work you both performed on this recent project.*

*You executed the plan with such professionalism and success, and I want to specifically recognize your efforts in managing the complexities involved. I know firsthand the difficulty of coordinating with all the tenants, especially those at 817. Having attempted that coordination myself without much success, I have a deep appreciation for how smoothly and effectively you handled it.*

*Thank you both for your outstanding effort, persistence, and excellent results."*

Andrew Park  
Kidder Mathews Commercial Real Estate, Newport Beach

*"Courteous and friendly, Alex is diligent and thorough in his work. We really appreciated having him as our tech!"*

Sheila Reiser  
Capistrano Beach

*"Alex and a partner performed a thorough review to determine if there are rodents in the attic. This was challenging because there is not an access to the attic. He pointed out an issue with the clothes dryer vent which could allow access and noted a tree which should be kept cut back. Alex explained every step he was taking and was professional and thorough. We are repeat customers of Termite Terry and highly recommend."*

Anne Pellegrini  
Newport Beach

While the weather is cold, these mosquitoes will look for warm spots to overwinter. Some of their favorite places to rest are in underground sewer drains, sheds, garages, wood piles, and animal burrows.

During our winter we had:

1. A lot of standing water left behind by our heavy rains.
2. The sun came out after the rains, and the weather warmed up to their liking.
3. With our "spring-like" weather, they got out of their resting places, and went back to work laying more eggs. Now you know why these mosquitoes have been a problem this winter.

It is interesting to note that you probably wouldn't have this problem if you lived in a colder climate, where the temperature never gets over 50 degrees in the winter. You and I like the weather in Southern California. These mosquitoes love it, too!

## Twelve Steps you can take to fight back against mosquitoes

1. Dump and drain any containers that hold water at least once a week. Scrub outdoor containers with soapy water to kill the eggs.
2. Cover empty containers, or turn them upside down so they won't collect water.
3. Drain bird baths and pet bowls on a weekly basis. Scrub them clean with soapy water to kill any eggs.
4. Drain the water from plant saucers on a weekly basis.
5. Clean your rain gutters and make sure they are draining properly.
6. If you have rain barrels, cover them with tight screening to keep mosquitoes out.
7. Dispose of old tires and debris that may collect water.
8. If you have unused pools or spas that contain water, contact the Orange County Vector Control District. They will put mosquito fish in these, usually at no charge.

9. Sump pumps should be covered with tight screening.
10. Close all unscreened doors and windows to help keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace damaged screens.
11. Use a mosquito repellent when going outdoors, and reapply as recommended.
12. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Lighter colored clothing is best.

These twelve steps will go a long way in helping you fight back against these pests. If you still are having a problem with mosquitoes in your yard, **call us at (949) 631-7348**. We have new mosquito services that will help you to take your yard back, and make your life more enjoyable.

## Take Caution: It Is Coyote Breeding Season!

The Huntington Beach Police Department is warning residents to take caution because the peak coyote breeding season has arrived.

The coyote mating season typically occurs from late January to March, and the peak of their season is in February.

The department says that during this time, adult coyotes will travel long distances in search of mates and food sources.

Especially in this time of year, it is important that you protect your pets by keeping them inside, and supervising them while they are outside.

If a person encounters a coyote, it is usually best to haze the animal. Depending on their behavior, start by standing your ground, and don't turn your back on the animal. Then yell or make loud noises that can startle it. If the coyote appears to be aggressive, you may want to throw objects or spray it with a garden hose.

The city's guide to coyotes says,

“A common concern with hazing involves potential danger to the hazer. Coyotes are instinctually skittish, which makes hazing useful. It is important that the hazer provides the coyote a clear escape route free to flee and not corner the animal; a cornered animal may decide that attacking the hazer is the only option.”

To help you prepare for the season, the police department says:

- Cut back vegetation that may be creating hiding places and shelters.
- Quickly harvest ripe/fallen fruit and vegetables.
- Pick up trash/litter and keep trash cans closed.
- Keep garbage cans inside a garage or secure building until pickup day.

Be safe, stay alert, and watch out for the coyotes!

## A Special Valentine's Gift To Get Revenge On Your Ex

If you want to get revenge on your ex, the San Antonio Zoo is inviting you to participate in their annual “Cry Me A Cockroach” Valentine’s Day fundraiser.

For only \$5, you can name a roach after your ex, and the zoo will feed it to one of their many animals.

Your donation will include a downloadable video of the roach being devoured by an animal. Just imagine how your ex will feel, knowing that you have shared this video online for the whole world to see!

Was your ex a vegetarian? You can name a veggie after your ex for only \$5. If you are really mad and upset, you may want to name a rat after your ex for only \$15.

Unlike candy and chocolates, this kind of revenge is sweet, non-fattening, and you may even have some fun this Valentine’s Day! ☺

## President's Economic Stimulus

Gasoline prices are dropping in the U.S., but California is still the second most expensive places to buy gas. The only state with higher gas prices is Hawaii.

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:

- Jennifer Jones of Newport Beach recommended our service to Karen Rayne of Newport Beach.
- Ron Mai of Costa Mesa referred us to William Richardson of Costa Mesa.
- Doug Conrady of Costa Mesa recommended our service to Ray Dunham of Costa Mesa.
- Adam Nguyen of Garden Grove referred us to Curtis Farrow of Huntington 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!



“Termite” Terry’s Insider Information is Published by:

“Termite” Terry Pest Control, Inc.

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(949)631-7348 [www.termiteterry.com](http://www.termiteterry.com)

## Great American Pie Month

February is when we celebrate Great American Pie Month. Before you enjoy a slice, let’s take a look at some fun facts about your favorite desert:

- Evidence that the Egyptians made of some of the earliest pies can be found on the tomb walls of Pharaoh Ramesses II, who ruled from 1304 to 1237 BC.
- Sales of pies in U.S. grocery stores were about \$2.2 billion during the year of 2022.
- Apple, pumpkin, and cherry are the top flavors.
- Pumpkin pie was first introduced to the holiday table at the Pilgrim’s second Thanksgiving in 1623.
- The world’s largest cherry pie was baked on July 14, 1990, by members of the Oliver Rotary Club, in British Columbia. The pie weighed 37,721 pounds and was 20 feet in diameter!
- Sales of frozen pies rose up to \$787.5 million in 2024.
- Pie isn’t just for desert. According to an American Pie Council survey, 35% of Americans say they’ve had pie for breakfast.
- It may surprise you, but apple pie is not uniquely American. The first recorded recipe for apple pie was written in England, in 1381. There are also recipes for Dutch apple pies that date back to 1514.
- There are only six Official State Pies:
  - Vermont – Apple pie
  - Florida – Key Lime pie
  - Delaware – Peach pie
  - Maine – Blueberry pie
  - Texas – Pecan pie
  - Illinois – Pumpkin pie
- McDonald’s restaurants introduced their apple pies in 1968. Ray Kroc came up with this great idea, and billions of them have been served.

Now, are you ready to enjoy a big slice of pie? I know I am! ☺

A FREE Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Clients of:

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## **Bed Bug-Infested Donation May Cause Thrift Shop To Permanently Shut Down**

A thrift shop in a small community may be forced to permanently shut down after they received a bed bug-infested donation.

This nightmare began when one of the store’s volunteers opened a bag containing some type of fabric. The woman didn’t even have a chance to put her hand in the bag before a swarm of bed bugs started crawling up her arm. She was bitten many times, and was left traumatized by the exposure. They closed the store within minutes after the discovery.

The owner of the store said that all items had to be removed from the shop, and thousands of dollars-worth of products had to be destroyed.

A cleaning crew, all dressed in hazmat suits, was brought in to perform a deep clean. Their fee was over \$3,000.

Two more deep cleans will be needed before the store can be reopened, and that may take up to 10 days to complete.

Because of the financial impact of this bed bug infestation, the future of the store is uncertain. The owner said that the store is 100 percent volunteer run, and that all of the profits stay in the community. The shop will be holding a community barbecue to raise funds to help them stay in business.

Ladies and gentlemen, bed bugs are by far and away the most difficult insect to deal with. It is very important to remember that these pests are imported from other places. So, be very careful when staying in hotels, using public transportation, or when you bring new items into your home. You’ve got to be on the lookout for these “hitchhikers”!



“Termite” Terry Singleton