

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

March 2012



"Happy Saint Patrick's Day!"

www.termiteterry.com



(949) 631-7348

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Is Dry Rot Worse Than Termite Damage?

Dry rot is a very common problem that most Orange County homeowners have to deal with on a regular basis. It is found throughout homes in structural lumber, eave areas, garage doors, exterior doors, windows, etc. This next statement may shock you;

"Current estimates show that approximately 10% of all U.S. wood production is used to provide materials to repair damage caused by dry rot."

Researchers estimate costs to treat and repair damage caused by drywood termites exceeds \$300 million dollars in California, annually. But, when you realize that **one out of every ten trees** cut down will be used to repair dry rot damage, it would appear that dry rot may be much worse.

Dry rot is caused by wood-destroying (decay) fungi. These decay fungi are plants that live on dead trees and lumber products. These plants are rather sophisticated and can grow very rapidly when conditions are right. When you find a piece of wood which has been infected by decay fungi, it is common to see small white/light grey fruiting bodies growing out of the wood and they look something like a "fan shaped sheet" or a "toad stool". These fruiting bodies produce many microscopic spores which are similar in function to seeds from higher plants. These spores are dispersed by wind or air currents and when one of them lands on a piece of wood in favorable conditions, it will germinate and grow quickly. Decay fungi must have air,

moisture and wood in order to flourish. Moisture is the most critical factor.

Cellulose and lignin, which makes up the cell walls of wood, serves as the food source. When decay fungi attacks a piece of wood and starts digesting it, the wood shrivels up fast and becomes spongy (very weak).

How 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, such as Bora-Care or Timbor.
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

(turn the page)

100th Anniversary Of The Girl Scouts!

On March 12th, 1912, the Girl Scouts was founded in Savannah Georgia by Juliette Gordon Low. Today, there are 2.3 million girl members in the U.S. and 92 different countries, with over 880,000 adult volunteers.

Celebrating Albert Einstein

"A perfection of means, and confusion of aims, seems to be our main problem."

Albert Einstein, born March 14, 1879

Rave Reviews From Angie's List Clients!

"I had Joe Johnston from Terry Termite perform a termite inspection on my home in September. Joe was the third inspector I had at my home and Joe was very detailed with his inspection. He spent about double the time inspecting my property vs. the inspectors from the other companies. In November, I entered into escrow to buy another home where there was some obvious termite damage. The seller presented us with a vague termite inspection report showing minimal damage. I hired Joe Johnston from Terry Termite to inspect the property as a second opinion and Joe found damage exceeding the report presented by the sellers by three times. At this point I requested Terry Termite to do the extermination and wood repair as a condition to complete my purchase. Joe followed up and kept all parties informed of the status of the work being done, he even called us during his vacation. Terry Termite and Joe Johnston did an outstanding job and I would highly recommend them. If you are a buyer, protect yourself and hire Termite Terry for a second opinion. I am glad I did, it saved me several thousand dollars in repair work."

Ron Lehman
Long Beach, Calif.

"My experience with Termite Terry Pest Control was excellent. I had an ant infestation problem completely resolved by Sam and Terry. Sam removed some wasp nests and Joe took care of the termite fumigation. They are good people and they did a nice job. I am happy with the results and I would recommend them to anyone in need of their services. Thank you Joe, Sam and Terry. Everything went perfectly well. The company is very reliable – they do what they have promised."

Suely Feilhaber
Irvine

- bottom of the plastic barrier and return to the soil instead of condensing on the floor and structural members of your home.
4. 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.
 5. 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.
 6. 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.
 7. 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 then repaired with a quality wood filler, such as "Bondo".

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? We have some of the finest carpenters in Orange County and they will be happy to assist. **Call our office staff at (949) 631-7348** and we'll schedule an appointment at your convenience.

Pesticide Use Increases In California After A Four Year Decline

Pesticide use in California was up in 2010 after declining for four consecutive years. The Department of Pesticide Regulation released data showing that more than 173 million pounds of pesticides were applied statewide. That is an increase of 15 million pounds or 9.5% from 2009.

The increase was mostly due to a 15% jump in acres treated with pesticides. 9.7 million acres were added on, raising the total number of acres being treated to 75 million.

Sulfur was the most highly used pesticide in both pounds applied and acres treated. Sulfur, which accounted for 27% of reported use, saw an increase usage of 4.4 million pounds or 10%. Sulfur is a natural fungicide. Conventional and organic farmers use it to control powdery mildew on grapes and processing tomatoes.

Other pesticides with high use were applied to treat a variety of diseases and pests that affected rice, walnuts, oranges, almonds, grapes and strawberries.

"The winter and spring of 2009 and 2010 were relatively cool and wet, which probably resulted in greater fungicide use to control mildew and other diseases," DPR Chief Deputy Director Chris Reardon explained. "Summer and fall temperatures were also below average, which led to late harvest, more insect damage to some crops and additional treatments."

Fresno, Kern, Tulare, San Joaquin and Madera were the top

five counties where most pesticides were applied and all of these counties are major producers of agricultural products.

At “Termite” Terry Pest Control, we are continuing to look for ways to improve the effectiveness of our pest control services while reducing the amount of pesticides we apply. Fortunately, there have been great improvements in technology over the past few years and some of the newest products are really helping us to meet our goals. With the knowledge we’ve gained, you can really enjoy **living pest free** and have the **peace of mind** knowing that we’re practicing techniques that will have the **least impact on our environment**.

Have pest problems and want to know more about “Termite” Terry’s pest control services? Please **call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we’ll schedule a **FREE Pest Audit** at your convenience!

FDA Bans Imports Of Orange Juice

The FDA has temporarily halted all imports of foreign orange juice because of fears that some foreign orange juice contains traces of carbendazim, a fungicide banned in the U.S.. They are especially concerned about juice imported from Brazil.

Fungicides, like carbendazim, are used to control fungi or fungal spores in agriculture. It is still legal to use in Brazil and the European Union even allows foods to contain up to 200 parts per billion of this fungicide. This fungicide was used as recently as 2008 on Florida oranges. But, the FDA banned the use of carbendazim in all food products after studies linked it to increased rates of cancers and infertility.

Experts are concerned about the reponse of consumers to this ban. If

consumers stop buying orange juice, prices for both imported and U.S. grown citrus could be adversely affected. Of course, if savvy consumers boycott only imported orange juice and fresh fruit, demand for U.S. citrus may see a healthy spike. That would be a good thing for U.S. growers.

“But the real winner could turn out to be the U.S. organic grower as consumers attempt to avoid chemical treatment of commercial citrus altogether,” says Dr. Juan Anciso of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. “It could be a good time to be in the organic orange business.”



For the second year in a row, “Termite” Terry Pest Control was given the Super Service Award by Angie’s List. This prestigious award celebrates our dedication to quality and is highly esteemed by Angie’s List members.

“Termite” Terry was also pleased to learn he was honored four times in 2011 as a “Page of Happiness Nominee” by Angie’s list members.

Angie’s List is the nation’s premier provider of trusted reviews on contractors and doctors in over 500 categories, like roofers, house cleaners and dentists. More than 2 million members check Angie’s List to find the best local service providers and save on projects with exclusive member discounts.

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The Traditional Story Of St. Urho

Many, many years ago, grapes used to grow all over Finland (experts have confirmed this by studying the remains of bears).

During one season, a bunch of grasshoppers came over to Finland and started attacking their vineyards. No one knew what to do, that is until St. Urho came to the rescue.

The Saint grabbed his pitchfork and started walking through the fields chanting, “Heinasirkka, heinasirkka, menetaalta hiiten” (in English, that means “Grasshopper, grasshopper scoot”). His loud voice and appearance must have frightened the grasshoppers and they all fled from the vineyards.

The growing season in Finland was very short and the farmers were very protective of their fields back then. Rumor has it that they started injecting Vodka into their grapes to give them a greater alcohol content.

Urho was declared a Saint because everyone was so happy and grateful for what he had done. They did this on March 16th, the day before St. Patrick’s Day.

Every year since, the Finnish people celebrate St. Urho’s Day on March 16th. The day’s ceremony starts at sunrise. Women and children meet at the lakeshore to chant “Heinasirkka, heinasirkka, menetaalta hiiten”. The men meet on top of a hill and start a procession down to the lake, while kicking and waving pitchforks. Purple and green are the official colors. The color purple represents the grapes and green represents the vines.

During these celebrations, they sing, dance the polka and of course, drink wine. They also enjoy Mojakkaa (a fish soup) which St. Urho ate to give him strength to fight off the grasshoppers.

Now, I don’t know if you believe in Finnish mythology, but this does give you a legitimate excuse to start partying a day earlier, doesn’t it?

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!!

A FREE Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Clients of:

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****At Termite Terry, We'll Get Rid Of All Your Termites Or
Your Treatment Is FREEEEEE!!****

Illegal Insecticide Chalk!

You may have seen these "illegal insecticide chalk" products for sale in a neighborhood store or being sold on the street for about \$1 a box. Their labels are sometimes written in both English and Chinese and they go by the brand names of "Miraculous Chalk" or "Chinese Chalk". These products are mostly imported from China.

Some of these product labels say their insecticide chalk is "harmless to human beings and animals" and "safe to use". According to the EPA, these claims are untrue and dangerous. These insecticide chalk sticks look just like regular blackboard chalk and the EPA is especially concerned that children will pick these up to write with and then put them in their mouths.

The EPA says that overexposure to some chemicals found in samples of insecticide chalk can provoke serious health effects, including vomiting, stomach pains, convulsions, tremors, and loss of consciousness. Serious allergic reactions are also possible. They also report that several children have had to be hospitalized after eating insecticide chalk.

These insecticide chalk products should be avoided at all times. If you have some of these products, the EPA recommends you return them to the retailer where you made the purchase or to contact a local hazardous waste facility to arrange for disposal.

Ladies and gentlemen, please don't take chances and use "gimmicky" pest control products like these. If you want to do your own pest control treatments, that's alright. But, always use an EPA registered product and follow all of the label directions. Wouldn't you rather spend a few bucks more for a good pest control product than to pay for a night's stay in a hospital?



"Termite" Terry Singleton