

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

March 2014



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## How To Keep Your Home Rodent Free!

Many homeowners in Orange County are having a problem with mice and rats, especially during the cold season. That is because these pests will often enter homes so they can avoid the bad weather and stay warm.

The most common complaint we hear is that mice and rats are making a lot of noise and keeping people awake at night, as they scurry around in attics and walls. Many are finding food, clothing, furniture and even their cars are being chewed up and eaten by mice and rats. Others are seeing their homes contaminated and ruined by rodent droppings and urine. Of course, nothing is worse than literally being stunk out of your home when one of these rodents dies inside of an attic or wall where you can't find them.

The good news is many of these problems can be prevented and that is why we would like to give you:

### 10 Tips To Keep Your Home Rodent Free!

1. Store garbage in sound, metal containers with tight lids.
2. Store food in rodent-proof containers. In the case of pet food, only put out what you pets will eat and don't leave any food exposed overnight.
3. Regularly inspect your stock of food and quickly clean up any food spills. You should always dispose of any packages which have been penetrated by rodents.

4. Seal holes leading into wall voids. You should also pick up any long-term clutter or debris to reduce nesting opportunities for rodents.
5. Store firewood, boxes, etc. 18 inches off the ground and at least 1 foot from walls to reduce cover or nest sites for rodents.
6. Discourage rodents from living too close to your home by trimming or removing vegetation around its foundation. Trees should be cut back at least four feet away from the house and none of the branches should be left hanging over the roof. Shrubs and vines should be kept four feet below the roofline. You also need to move bird feeders and kennels away from your house.
7. Exterior doors need to be tightly fit and should be kept closed when not in use, including garage doors.
8. Cover exterior vents with 20-gauge wire screen of 1/4 inch mesh to exclude rodents.
9. Repair any holes in exterior walls with concrete. Wire mesh can be rammed into small holes as a temporary measure to exclude rodents.
10. Check any incoming supplies, particularly boxes which have been stored in garages and outbuildings, to prevent hidden rodents from being carried indoors.

### How To Get Rid Of Mice And Rats

1. The first thing you should do is to complete the 10 steps listed above. There are a lot of rats in Orange  
(Keep reading!)

### 70 Years Ago . . .

The Great Escape of World War II. 76 Allied prisoners broke out of a prisoner-of-war camp near Sagan, Germany after digging tunnels. 73 were recaptured and 50 executed. Do you remember the classic film, *The Great Escape*?

### Remembering "Mr. Wal-Mart"

*"I have always been driven to buck the system, to innovate, to take things beyond where they've been."*

Sam Walton, born March 29, 1918

## Rave Reviews!

*"I called your company and your inspector, Eddie Newton, came out to inspect my property. He was friendly, funny and made the time go by very quickly while we still were able to get a lot accomplished. I actually received three other reports not counting yours and although yours did not have as many pictures, I thought it was much better. Your report was concise and laid out in a way that was easy for me to understand.*

*As far as the work process from the fumigation to the woodwork, everything seemed to go better than I thought it was going to. I thought I was going to lose plants, but I actually didn't lose any so that was great. Eddie came out and told me beforehand how to cut the plants to prepare for the tent and woodwork. Everything went well and after you left, your crew cleaned up really well which pleased my husband. There was so much that was well cared for and we could tell you are a company that cares.*

*The woodwork went well overall. There was one small area of concern, but Eddie came out and personally fixed it.*

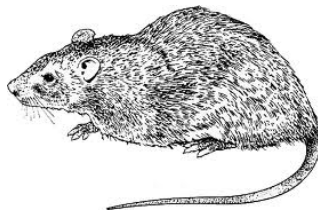
*I would absolutely recommend you to others and if I need any work done in the future, I will use your company."*

Lea Harris, Manager  
Playport Mobile Village  
Costa Mesa

County and there is no way you'll ever be able to catch them all. The real secret of effective rodent control is to keep them out of your home so you don't have to spend the rest of your life chasing them!

2. Do not use poisonous baits on the inside of your home! I know, I know – The guys at the hardware store will always tell you to put out some of their magic mouse or rat bait and once they eat it, they will get thirsty and go outside to die. However, in the real world, that doesn't always happen. We frequently have to go out to a lot of homes and businesses to remove mice and rats that have been poisoned. Ask anyone that has had to endure the foul odor of a dead rodent and they will all agree that you shouldn't use poisonous baits on the inside!
3. We highly recommend you use "Old Fashioned" snap traps! They will take a bit more effort but they are well worth it. The secret to good trapping is to place the traps in a runway where the mice and rats frequent. Remember, mice and rats have very poor vision and always follow walls and surfaces with their whiskers. Please note that if you place the trap away from their pathway, they may never even see it, much less step on it.
4. You may want to place rodent bait stations on the exterior of your home to help control the rat population. This works especially well in areas where the rodent population is high. However, bait stations should never be installed unless your home is rodent proofed, first!

Need help with rodent control? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we'll schedule an appointment at your convenience.



## Legalized Pot Creates Demand For Pest Control

Pot smokers finally got what they wanted and Cannabis production is now legal in Colorado and Washington States.

In the past, Cannabis growers faced criminal charges for growing the mind-altering crop and they weren't all that concerned with pesticide regulations. The growers would simply spray a crop with any type of pesticide they wanted to and when a person lit up, he or she may have been inhaling a lot more than just "THC," the psychoactive ingredient.

Now that Cannabis is legal for recreational use, states are planning to start testing the finished product for pesticides. This will force the growers to seek out expert advice on pest management.

Cannabis growers face a number of unique challenges when it comes to pest control. Some of them are:

- There are currently no pesticides registered for use on Cannabis.
- Federal regulations prohibit registration of pesticides for use on Cannabis.
- State universities are not allowed to conduct research or extension activities on it.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is not permitted to do research on Cannabis.
- The IR-4 Specialty Crops Project cannot conduct studies on it.
- Cannabis cannot be certified as organic.
- New state requirements require that growers must use pesticides according to label instructions.

There are no known legal means of controlling insect pests of Cannabis and farmers are literally in the dark as to how they will develop a viable pest management

plan.

In Washington State, the legal Cannabis crop is expected to quickly surpass \$1 billion. The Washington State Liquor Control Board estimates that production could surpass \$2 billion within 5 years. That would make it the most valuable crop in the Pacific Northwest. When you consider how many pounds of pot can be produced on an acre, it is easily the highest value crop produced on a per acre basis. Some growers are estimating a gross of over \$100,000 per acre. Indoor cultivation estimates are as much as \$6 million per acre, due to the fact that it will allow the harvest of six crops per year.

Mites, thrips and aphids are major pests of Cannabis and can easily render a crop unmarketable. The Washington State Department of Agriculture has developed a list of 216 products that it believes can legally be used on Cannabis. The efficacy of many of these products for insect control on Cannabis is unknown.

Anyone sitting on \$6 million an acre is going to want to protect their investment. Can you imagine all of the millions of dollars that will be poured into private research and paid for pest control services to solve this problem?

## The House Of Snakes!

A school teacher was arrested after police found hundreds of living and dead snakes in his home in Santa Ana.

The police gagged at the stench as they served the school teacher a warrant. A team of police, dressed in biohazard jumpsuits and facemasks, then entered the five bedroom home and pulled out 182 live pythons and more than 240 dead ones. Live and dead mice and rats were also found

throughout the home.

“The smell alone – I feel like I need to take a shower for a week. They’re pretty much in all the bedrooms – everywhere,” said Cpl. Anthony Bertagna of the Santa Ana Police Department.

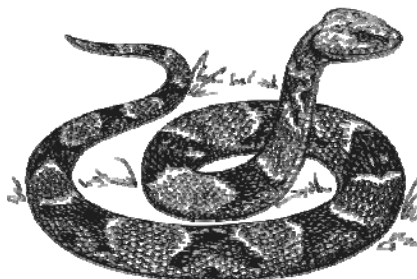
Sondra Berg, animal supervisor with the Santa Ana Police said, “Worst case I’ve ever seen. Two years ago, we found 110 cats in an 800 square-foot home. This is much more severe.”

The teacher’s neighbors had complained about the foul odor coming from this home for several months. They thought the odor may have been coming from trash.

What got this case moving was when some Jehovah’s Witnesses knocked on his door. They thought the smell may have been coming from a dead person and called the police.

The school teacher was booked on suspicion of cruelty to animals. Police will also be looking into whether the teacher was selling snakes from his home without a permit.

According to neighbors at the scene, the teacher lived alone and had grown increasingly depressed following the recent death of his mother. Officials believe he was breeding snakes and working to develop various color and pattern combinations in snakes, known as morphs.



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## National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Among cancers that affect both men and women, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of deaths from cancer in the United States. About 140,000 Americans are diagnosed with colorectal cancer every year and it claims more than 50,000 lives.

Colorectal cancer risks increase with age and over 90% of cases occur in people who are over the age of 50.

Symptoms may include:

- Blood in or on the stool.
- Stomach pain, aches, or cramps that don’t go away.
- Losing weight and you don’t know why.

Cancer screening can really help save lives. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends these tests to screen for colorectal cancer:

1. Colonoscopy (every 10 years).
2. High-sensitivity fecal occult blood test, stool test, or fecal immunochemical test (every year).
3. Sigmoidoscopy (every 5 years).

The Mayo Clinic recommends the following lifestyle changes to reduce your risk of getting colorectal cancer:

- Eat a variety of fruits, vegetables and whole grains. These contain vitamins, minerals, fiber and antioxidants, which may play a role in cancer prevention.
- Drink alcohol in moderation. Men should have no more than 2 drinks per day and women should have only 1 drink per day.
- Stop smoking.
- Start an exercise program. You should get at least 30 minutes of exercise on most days of the week.
- Maintain a healthy weight by combining a healthy diet and daily exercise. If you need to lose weight, ask your doctor for advice on how to reach your goal.



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### ***"Chicken a la Roaches"***

A major poultry processing plant in California was recently shut down by the U.S. Department of Agriculture because they found it was infested with cockroaches. Two other plants remain under heightened security following two outbreaks of salmonella food poisoning during the past twelve months. One of these outbreaks is still ongoing and at least 416 people have been sickened in 23 states and Puerto Rico.

The owners confirmed the shut-down in a statement and said that operations had been temporarily stopped to, "Allow for enhanced sanitizing to take place." This is the fifth time roaches were discovered in this plant in the past five months. A number of diseases can be transmitted by cockroaches, including Salmonella.

None of the potentially tainted products have been recalled by this company during their two Salmonella outbreaks. Instead, they advise consumers to handle chicken properly and thoroughly cook it to a temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

What I find particularly fascinating about this story is the company has known about this problem for sometime and hasn't solved it. Now, instead of airing radio commercials about the quality and taste of their chicken, their commercials have a spokesperson apologizing for the Salmonella problem and trying to assure us that all will soon be well.

The company's image has been badly tarnished and you can only imagine how this is hurting their product sales. They claim to have an ongoing pest control service. Do you think it is time for them to finally hire a better qualified professional that can solve this problem with cockroaches?

Meanwhile, "Chicken a la Roaches" doesn't sound all that good for dinner. I think I'll order fish or steak, instead.



"Termite" Terry Singleton