

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

September 2014



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How You Can Prevent Drywood Termite Damage

Termites Are Attacking Homes And Many Owners Are Looking For Solutions

Drywood termites are one of the major causes of structural damage to homes and businesses in Orange County. This article is for owners who want to know what to look for and those who want to learn how to protect what is probably their largest investment.

What is a drywood termite?

Drywood termites belong to the family *Kalotermitidae* and while they are similar to subterranean termites, their ecology and behavior are distinctly different. The Western Drywood termite is the most common specie in Orange County. They are about ½ inch long, dark brown, with smoky black wings and have a reddish-brown head.

Many owners confuse ants with termites. To avoid this confusion, take a close look at the insect with a magnifying glass. Drywood termites have two pairs of equal length wings which are almost twice as long as the body.

Whereas, ants have wings which are not much longer than their body and one pair is obviously shorter than the other.

Another way to distinguish an ant from a termite is to take a close look at their bodies. Termites appear to have only two body parts – a head and an abdomen. Ants, on the other hand, have three distinctive body parts (head, thorax and abdomen) and you'll see an obvious pinched-waist between the abdomen and thorax.

Why do drywood termites swarm?

Drywood termites swarm because it is part of their mating ritual. They usually swarm in Orange County during the months of September and October.

Swarming is triggered by bright sunlight and temperatures of over 80 degrees Fahrenheit. It is quite common to see swarms of these pests flying in and around homes this time of the year because they are looking for new locations to start their colonies.

If you see a swarm of termites at your home, does it mean you have a problem?

Drywood termites are flying everywhere during this season and many owners will see them on the outside of their home or floating in a swimming pool. Termites will also occasionally fly through open doors and windows. The sighting of termites in these instances does not necessarily indicate that you have an infestation.

What happens to these swarming termites?

Fortunately, drywood termites are extremely poor fliers and most of them will start settling down after they fly for just a few feet. A majority of these termites will fall prey to birds, reptiles or other insects. Many of the others will die of dehydration or injury.

After the swarmers land, they shed their wings, begin the mating process and start looking for a piece of wood to enter. Cracks, knot holes or joints between pieces of wood

(Keep reading)

60th Anniversary Of The "Tonight Show"

The Tonight Show is the longest running talk show in television history. On September 27, 1954, Steve Allen hosted the first show and announced, "This show is going to go on forever."

Celebrating A Four Time Super Bowl Champ!

"Bottom line is, if you turn the ball over to a team that isn't as good, you then have brought them up to your level."

Terry Bradshaw, born September 2, 1948

Rave Review!

I first met the Termite Terry Pest Control organization 18 months ago after discovering a serious termite infestation in my Los Altos, Long Beach, home. It was awful. The termites attracted ants to compound the problem. They were one of three inspections and bids I received.

We choose Termite Terry because of the seriousness of their approach and because they simply identified the most infected areas of my home. The most thorough by far. They were not the least expensive, but 18 months later I am sure they were the best choice.

Termite Terry removed and repaired all the outside wood damage including parts of the roof. The crews were on-time and on-schedule. The work has been quality. They were polite, professional, even pleasant. And importantly, they were clean with their work and left the areas of repair clean when they finished.

They walked through the fumigation process with great patience. They answered every phone call with kind politeness: even when giving us missed information for the umpteenth time. Again, all the crews were on-time, polite, clean and respectful in their approach to our home. A year later, a free inspection showed they have solved that awful problem.

However, an equally smart decision was to get a Termite Terry bi-monthly contract to keep my property free of pests year-round. DJ has proven to be a reliable partner in this process. He is inquisitive and probing about what pests have been seen and any concerns. He pokes his nose in every corner to ensure the entire property is looked after. Again, this is done with an on-time, clean and pleasant attitude.

Picking Termite Terry Pest Control to solve a serious and awful problem of termite infestation was a good one. From top to bottom, an organization of good people, good systems, vast knowledge and a serious approach to solving your pest problem is how I describe Termite Terry Pest Control. A sure bet.

Paul
Los Altos, Long Beach

are the easiest access points.

The king and queen will remain in their small nest and build up the colony. Drywood termite colonies are usually small but when you combine multiple colonies in a single piece of wood, you may have over 10,000 members. When there are that many termites eating 24 hours a day for 365 days a year, you're going to start seeing a substantial amount of damage.

What are the signs of a drywood termite infestation?

If you see large numbers of drywood termite swarms inside of a home, attic, garage or subarea, an infestation is likely to be located somewhere within the structure.

Termite fecal droppings are a strong indicator of an infestation. Drywood termite droppings are oval shaped, have six sides and are about the size of a grain of sand. From time to time, these termites are known to clean out the galleries where they work and their droppings will fall directly below the kick-out hole.

Termite damaged wood can also be a strong sign of a problem. You may not always see live termites in these areas because in many cases, they have moved on to other locations to eat or for protection.

How can you get rid of drywood termites?

When you see evidence of drywood termites, the first thing you should do is order a thorough inspection of the structure.

If the area of infestation can be located and it is fully accessible, a localized/spot treatment of the area may be all you need to have done. This is performed by drilling small holes in the infested wood members and injecting a termiticide into the termite galleries.

If the infestation extends into areas that cannot be seen or accessed, an all encompassing type of treatment, such as fumigation, will probably be needed.

What should you do if one company says you need a spot treatment and another calls for a fumigation?

This is a common problem that many owners face. The answer is easy; if the area cannot be fully inspected and is not fully accessible for treatment, a fumigation is probably needed.

Now, it may be possible for you to remove the wall coverings, flooring or the roof to make these areas accessible for inspection and treatment. However, that can be very expensive and impractical. Also, you may find that the infestation extends even further into other areas of the structure.

The reason why fumigations were invented was so that homeowners would not have to literally destroy their homes in order to eliminate these pests.

What should I know before I hire a fumigator?

Not all fumigations are created equal and if you are going to do it, it must be done properly.

The first thing you need to ask any fumigator is, "How much gas are you going to use?"

There are a number of factors which must be calculated before a structure is fumigated and one of the most important factors is the size of your home. Always insist on an accurate measurement and you should carefully review the fumigator's math. The size of your home greatly determines the amount of gas needed. Please note that if enough gas is not applied, your fumigation will fail and you will have wasted all your money.

You should also inspect the quality of the fumigator's equipment, especially the condition of his fumigation tarps. If these are old, ragged and torn, you know for a fact that his fumigation will fail.

What about guarantees?

This is a very important question that needs to be asked. Most

termite companies in our area will guarantee their fumigations for a period of two years. They will tell you that if your fumigation fails within a set time period, their company will re-tent your home at no charge. However, you'll find that almost no one will cover the cost of your time to re-bag all of your food, the cost of staying at a hotel and/or compensate you for the inconvenience.

What makes Termite Terry Pest Control different from all the rest?

The answer is simple; At Termite Terry Pest Control, we'll get rid of all your termites or your treatment is FREE!

That's right! If you find a live colony of drywood termites anywhere in the structure fumigated, we will re-fumigate your home at no charge and we will refund all your money. There is no risk to you and the worst thing that could happen to you is that you get a free fumigation. Why would anyone take a chance on working with someone who might do a good job?

Do you have a termite problem and need help? **Call us at (949) 631-7348** and we'll be happy to schedule an inspection at your convenience.

The Beetles Kill George Harrison's Tree

A memorial pine tree dedicated to George Harrison, the Beatles' lead guitarist, has been massacred by an onslaught of beetles.

The tree was planted in 2004 near the observatory with a small plaque at the base to commemorate the former Beetle, who died in 2001. Harrison had spent his final days in L.A. and was an avid gardener for much of his adult life.

Bark beetles are being blamed for the 12 foot tree's demise.

Harrison once stated that his

biggest break in life was joining the Beatles; his second biggest break was getting out. What would he say now, as he looks down from heaven and sees his dead tree? Would he start singing, "That'll Be the Day"?

West Nile Virus Cases On The Rise

The West Nile virus has claimed the lives of four people in California this summer and the number of symptomatic cases is increasing across the state.

Twenty one new human cases of West Nile virus were reported in California just this past week, bringing the total count to fifty seven cases reported year to date. Only thirty seven cases had been reported at this time last year.

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that was originally discovered in Africa. This virus was first detected in the United States in 1999. Since then, it has spread throughout the U.S. and is well established in California.

To reduce the risk of infection, officials recommend:

1. Stay indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
2. Use a repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 before going outdoors. Avon's "Skin So Soft" lotion may also help in some cases.
3. Remove or drain water that has been standing for more than three days.
4. Repair or replace damaged door and window screens.

For more information and to learn what you can do to help solve this problem, go to www.westnile.ca.gov.

The History Of Labor Day

Labor Day is celebrated on the first Monday of September and is a tribute to what American workers have done to build the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

No one knows for sure of who first came up with the idea of this holiday for American workers.

Peter J. McGuire, who was general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, is believed to be the first to suggest that we honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

Others believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, founded the holiday. He was secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York and research supports that he proposed the holiday in 1882. We know the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to set up a demonstration and picnic.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on a Tuesday. The event was held in New York City on September 5, 1882, and was set up by the Central Labor Union. The second Labor Day was celebrated on Wednesday, the 5th of September, 1883.

In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday. It was originally proposed that way and the Central Labor Union urged others around the country to follow their lead. In 1885, many industrial centers of the country joined in on the celebration.

On June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September a legal holiday.

The U.S. Department of Labor says, "The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy."

"Termite" Terry's Insider Information is Published by:

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**"You're Going To Love Living In A Pest Free Home.
I Guarantee It."**

"Is Your O.J. In Trouble?"

The \$9 billion citrus industry in Florida is facing its biggest threat yet; the Asian citrus psyllid. This tiny mottled brown insect, about the size of an aphid, feeds on all varieties of citrus and experts say that if a solution isn't found, Florida's entire citrus industry could collapse. Florida currently produces about 80 percent of the orange juice in the U.S.

Asian citrus psyllids feed on new leaf growth. This feeding twists and curls young leaves and kills or burns back new shoots. Even more serious is that this insect is a vector of the bacterium *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*, associated with the fatal citrus disease huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening disease.

HLB can kill a citrus tree in as little as five years and there is no known cure. At this time, the only way to protect trees is to prevent the spread of the HLB pathogen by controlling psyllid populations and by removing and destroying any infected trees.

Psyllids are not native to Florida and experts believe they arrived from someone who may have unknowingly brought a slip of a tree from Asia. They were first discovered in the U.S. in June of 1998 at a home in Palm Beach County, Florida. They have since spread to Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Arizona, California and Hawaii.

The Asian citrus psyllid is also threatening California growers who raise the majority of the U.S.'s fresh citrus crop. This pest is widely distributed throughout Southern California and is likely to spread into the Central Coast and the Central Valley.

\$90 million has been spent in Florida since 2008 on greening research and much of that money is raised from a tax they pay on every box of citrus that is picked. The Federal Farm Bill of 2014 has included another \$125 million for greening research.



"Termite" Terry Singleton