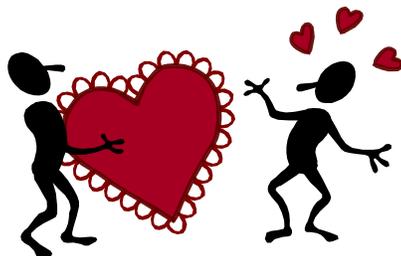


# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

February 2015



*Happy Valentine's Day!*

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



(949) 631-7348

## Inside This Issue...

- Subterranean Termites 1
- Rave Reviews! 2
- New Bed Bug Solution 3
- Food Distributer Cited! 3
- Valentine's Day Fun Facts 3
- Beware: Home Buyers And Sellers 4

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## What You Need To Know About Subterranean Termites

Subterranean termites are the most destructive insect pest of wood in the United States and cause billions of dollars in damage each year. Unfortunately, most home and business owners never know they have a termite problem until it is too late. That is because a majority of subterranean termite activity is hidden inside walls and covered areas where we can't see.

In this article, we have good news for you. You'll learn about subterranean termites, how to have your home effectively treated and how you can take care of your home so you may never have to deal with them again!

### Subterranean Termites 101

There are a number of different species of subterranean termites in the U.S. In California, the "western subterranean" termite is the one we have to deal with most.

Subterranean termites are social insects that form colonies and live within the soil. That is how they got their name, subterranean. There are three caste members in the colony:

1. Reproductives
2. Workers
3. Soldiers

The primary winged reproductive males and females have wings. Other reproductive members of the colony have no wings and are white to cream-colored. The winged primary reproductives (also known as alates or swarmers)

are the ones most people are likely to see. Their bodies are almost black, about ¼ inch long and they have two pairs of equal length wings which are almost twice as long as their body. None of the reproductives eat wood – their job is to make a lot of babies.

The workers are wingless, white to creamy-white and are about ¼ inch long. Worker termites are the ones that do all of the damage to wood.

Soldier termites look similar to the workers in color and general appearance, but you'll find they have a well-developed brownish head with a pair of strong jaws.

When the conditions are right, the young kings and queens burst out of their nest and begin their short flight. They are very poor fliers and often follow the prevailing breeze. They break off their wings while still in flight and spiral down to the earth or sometimes they land and then remove their wings. Kings and queens are not attracted to one another until the wings have been clipped off. They have a very high mortality rate and only about 3% survive.

Once a king finds a queen to pair off with, he follows her around until she finds a place to call home. Perhaps they will do this by excavating a small cell in moist ground, under wood. About a week later, they will mate and the male will stay with her for the rest of his life. The queen may survive up to 25 years and lay as many as 60,000 eggs.

Subterranean termite colonies are large in numbers and  
(turn the page)

### 75 Years Ago . . .

On February 26, 1935, Parker Brothers began selling the board game, "Monopoly." More than 275 million sets have been sold and it is available in 111 countries, in 43 languages.

### Celebrating Steve Jobs

*"Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected."*

Steve Jobs, born February 24, 1955

## Rave Reviews!

*“Just wanted to thank you for another year of excellent service. Key to my satisfaction is your technician, D.J. (David Salaman). What a personable, professional and knowledgeable young man he is. He has always been informative and caring and has contained any pest problems we have had. I have and will continue to recommend you and D.J.”*

Jill Specter  
Newport Coast

*“I would like to let you know how satisfied I am with your services. These included termite inspection, tenting and repair of termite damage, in addition to removal of wasp nests. I would especially like to commend Skip Haffke, who worked closely with me in preparing for the tenting and in thoroughly identifying what needed to be done, as well as how and when it would be done. I have already recommended Termite Terry Pest Control to others and will use your services again if the need arises.”*

Sincerely,  
Henrietta Baramki  
Huntington Beach

may consist of many thousands of members. It is very important for you to know that there may be a dozen or more termite colonies surrounding a single structure at any given time. In other words, doing a treatment in one area may kill off one termite colony but there may be a dozen or more colonies still working in other parts of the structure. This is why full-perimeter treatments of the entire structure are strongly recommended.

### Careful Inspection And Treatment Is Key!

Have your home carefully inspected on an annual basis. Inspection is especially important when dealing with subterranean termites because they can be so difficult to locate.

If an infestation is found, you need to take care of it quickly. We strongly recommend using a **non-repellant** termiticide, such as **Termidor**. Unlike “cheap and smelly repellent products,” Termidor is virtually odorless and the termites will never know it is even there. Termidor is especially effective because it offers the “transfer effect”. In other words, when a termite is exposed to the product, the termite will return to the colony and spread it around to other members. This is how we can now eliminate entire colonies.

Another product we recommend is named **Altriset**. The EPA considers this product to be **eco-exempt**, or **minimal risk**, because it has no known side effects on humans or domestic animals. Altriset is non-repellant and also offers the transfer effect to other members of the colony.

### 10 Things You Can Do To Prevent Subterranean Termites

1. In new construction of homes or buildings, use termite shields on foundations, piers and between wooden steps or porches and the main structure to prevent termite access from the soil. We strongly recommend that soil treatments be performed prior to pouring of the foundation to prevent subterranean termites. Treatment of new wood

- members with borate solutions can also be very effective.
2. Eliminate wood contact with the ground (e.g. by replacing wooden posts and piers with concrete ones and by supporting wooden steps on a concrete base at least 6 inches above the ground).
3. Regrade soil around the perimeter to ensure drainage away from the building and maintain at least 6 inches clearance between wood siding or shingles and the ground.
4. Ensure there is at least 18 inches clearance in crawl spaces between all horizontal timbers and the ground.
5. Reduce humidity in crawl spaces by ensuring adequate cross-ventilation. Covering the ground with a plastic moisture barrier will reduce humidity under buildings by reducing evaporation from the soil.
6. Remove any wooden debris which might become a source of infestation beneath the building, including scrap wood, form boards, old tree roots, and even sawdust.
7. Fill any crevices or voids where they might help subterranean termites move from the ground to wood in buildings, including foundation cracks, hollow blocks, gaps between stucco and the wall and crevices around pipework.
8. Remove infested stumps and trees near buildings.
9. Eliminate sources of excess moisture such as plumbing and roof leaks. Make sure sprinklers are adjusted and stay away from the house.
10. Have your home inspected on an annual basis and if a problem is spotted, take care of it quickly.

Have a termite problem and need an inspection? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we will schedule an appointment at your convenience.

## New Pheromone-Laced Trap May Be A Solution For Bed Bugs

Waking up in the morning and seeing bites on your body caused by bed bugs and blood stains on your bed sheets can be a horrifying experience.

Trying to get rid of these pest can also give you nightmares because bed bugs are by far and away the most difficult pest to control in today's world. There is no simple way to eliminate bed bugs and treatments can be highly disruptive, labor intensive and expensive.

Fortunately, researchers from Simon Fraser University (SFU) are hard at work and may have found a solution for these pests – a set of chemical attractants, or pheromones, that lure bed bugs into traps and keep them there.

Gerhard Gries and Regine Gries are biologist at the university and they have been working with SFU chemist Robert Britton. This research team has concluded a series of successful trials in bed bug-infested apartments in Metro Vancouver. Their research was recently published in *Angewandte Chemie*, a leading general chemistry journal.

The research team's goal is to develop the first effective and affordable bait and trap for detecting and monitoring bedbug infestations. If successful, they expect it to be commercially available in 2016.

Gerhard said, "This trap will help landlords, tenants, and pest-control professionals determine whether premises have a bedbug problem, so that they can treat it quickly. It will also be useful for monitoring the treatment's effectiveness."

The world has been waiting for a solution like this and if these baits and traps are proven effective overtime, it will be great news for everyone.

## Chinese Food Distributer Cited

A food company that distributes products to Asian restaurants was recently cited by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for numerous violations after they found rodents and other pests in a warehouse.

Inspectors found less-than-sanitary conditions including live and dead rodents and birds landing and defecating on stored food products.

During an inspection of the warehouse they found:

- Rodents nesting in a plastic-lined box in a cooler that had rib meat thawing on top of melons.
- Four dead rodents.
- Birds flying around inside of the warehouse.
- A pallet of pineapples that had been gnawed on by rodents.
- Rodent droppings in a cooler.
- A path of rodent droppings leading to a hole in a bag of flour.
- Rodent droppings, urine and nests in and around bags of MSG.
- Workers who were smoking while handling food.

Inspectors were also concerned that rodent poisons were being used without taking precautions to keep it from contaminating food.

The company was cited earlier this year for shipping fish, chicken and pork at unsafe temperatures. These thawing meats were dripping onto other food, causing cross contamination.

This apparant disregard for human health cannot be tolerated and this is a great example of why the job of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is so important.

## Valentine's Day Fun Facts

Valentine's Day is coming up on February 14<sup>th</sup> so let's take a look at some fun facts about this special day:

- Money can buy love! The average consumer in the U.S. will spend over \$100 on Valentine's Day gifts, meals and entertainment.
- During the Middle Ages, men and women would draw names to see who would be their Valentine. They'd wear this name on their sleeves for a week for everyone to see. This was the origin of the expression to "wear your heart on your sleeve."
- England's King Henry VII officially declared February 14<sup>th</sup> as the holiday of Valentine's Day in 1537.
- Over 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.
- Over 189 million stems of roses will be sold for Valentine's Day.
- An average of 220,000 wedding proposals are made on Valentine's Day each year.
- Girls during the medieval times would eat bizarre foods on Valentine's Day to make them dream of their future spouse.
- One popular theory about the origin of Valentine's Day is that Roman Emperor Claudius II didn't want for men to marry during wartime. Bishop Valentine disregarded his wishes and performed secret weddings. For this, he was jailed and executed.
- Single ladies have good odds of finding a date. There are 119 single men (never married, widowed or divorced) in their 20's for every 100 single women of the same age!
- Over 140 years ago, Richard Cadbury produced the first box of Valentine's Day chocolates.

Don't forget! There is still time to do something nice for that special person in your life. Order those flowers, gifts and dinner reservations, now!

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"Termite" Terry Pest Control, Inc.  
785 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St. #G, Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
(949)631-7348 [www.termiteterry.com](http://www.termiteterry.com)



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Office: (949)631-7348 Fax: (949)722-6190

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

## Home Buyers And Sellers Need To Beware!

The California Association of Realtors (CAR) recently removed the previously required wood destroying pest inspection and wood pest report from the amended 10-page residential purchase agreement. This is a very important change that home buyers need to beware of because if they aren't careful, they may wind up inheriting someone else's **"termite and dryrot damaged nightmare."**

Previously, when a buyer signed a purchase agreement, it included guidelines for wood pest reports and who (if any) would be required to correct any conditions found. It also had a clause stating that the buyer may cancel the agreement if dissatisfied with the report findings. This has all been removed from the agreement. Now, if a buyer is concerned about termites and dryrot, he or she must fill out a form called the "request for repair." What will happen if a buyer doesn't know to make this request? Let's hope the buyer has a good realtor that is looking out for his or her interest!

Why did CAR do this? Are they suggesting you get a termite report before you negotiate an offer? Or, are they suggesting you leave termite work out of the real estate transaction all together? Who knows?

With the new rules in place, we strongly recommend that if you are thinking about selling your home, **have your house thoroughly inspected, first.** That way you'll know exactly where you stand before you negotiate a price. **The last thing you need is an expensive surprise** after you've agreed on a sales price.

Are you looking to purchase a home? Have the sellers had their home inspected by a reputable firm? Or, are they hoping you'll accept the home's problems as-is? Please, **don't take chances – have the home thoroughly inspected before you make an offer!**



"Termite" Terry Singleton