

Rats & Mice Are Moving Indoors

Whether it's **EEK!**, **UGH!!**, or **YUCK!!!**, most of us have a natural revulsion for mice and rats. These common pests appear indoors randomly throughout the year. But it's during the fall and winter, when it's cooler outdoors and food is scarcer, that we see the number of invading mice and rats dramatically increase.

Mice and rats are everywhere outdoors, but their populations explode where food is easily available, including spilled grain below bird feeders,

exposed garbage, fallen fruits or nuts, and other foods.

Indoors, rodents tend to be omnivorous, eating or nibbling on most any food available, although cereals and grains are among the foods they will consume regularly. They develop food preferences; mice in offices show a preference for chocolate and snack



items, presumably because these are the foods they find there.

Keep in mind that mice and rats multiply fastest when they have plenty of food, water, and shelter. For instance, mice give birth to 2-13 young every 30-50 days. It's been shown that well-fed and supplied mice have the largest litters, and more often. So as much as possible, it's always important to prevent mice and rats from having access to food, water, and shelter.

We are the area experts at controlling these common rodent pests. If you, or someone you know, have mice or rats, call us to control them.

Signs of Termite Problems

*Some primal termite knocked on wood
And tasted it and found it good
And that is why your Cousin May
Fell through the parlor floor today
—Ogden Nash*

Don't wait for what happened to Cousin May happen to you too! People really do fall through termite-weakened floors, although more often they sink a little first, before falling all the way through.

If we are not already inspecting your home on a regular basis, it's wise to call and have us conduct a thorough, professional inspection for termites and the many other wood-destroying organisms that can damage your home. Termite damage is usually hidden, and can easily go undetected for years. It takes a trained professional to find it early, preventing costly repair work.

Meanwhile, there are a few things you as a homeowner should always keep

an eye out for. These are the more obvious signs of subterranean termites. They include:

- **Mud "shelter tubes"**. Termites build these over foundations and in other places to connect their colony to wood.
- **Winged termites ("swarmers")**, or their broken-off wings, often in places like window sills.
- **Obvious damage to wood**. Look

for wood hollowed out along the grain, with bits of mud or soil. Often termites will leave the outer layer of wood undamaged, as a way to keep their galleries protected and humid.

Also keep an eye out for conditions that favor termites, like excess moisture and soil touching or almost touching wood.



Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Place weather stripping on the bottom, side, and top of all outside doors to help reduce the number of pests that enter through these cracks. This, along with our regular treatments, will help keep pests out that are attempting to invade your home.



*And wow, our home is so close
we don't even need a designated driver!*

Unusual Spider Webs Sighted

At Lake Tawakoni State Park, about 50 miles east of Dallas, Texas, a monstrous network of sheet-like webs covering several acres was spun over trees and shrubs in August. Although phenomena like this have been sighted in tropical rain forests, it is almost unheard of in this country.



Normally, giant patchworks of webs are spun only by spiders that are known to live in groups. But most of the spiders caught in the Texas webs are long-jawed spiders, which are not social and do not normally build communal webs. Scientists now believe the massive webs are an unusual example of several spider species working together to build webs that catch more prey. Let's hope these spiders don't learn too much from this experience!

Roaches Don't Like Mornings

A recent university study found that a cockroach's ability to learn is greatly affected by the time of day. In a two-year study, pests were taught to associate peppermint, a scent they normally don't like, with food. Test results show that roaches are incapable of remembering what they learn in the morning, but can remember for several days what they learn during the evening and at night, when they are normally more active.

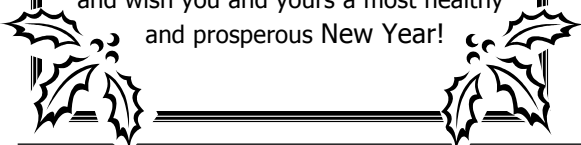


Thank You!

We want to take this opportunity to thank both our long-term and new customers for allowing us to help protect your health and property through professional pest management. It's our pleasure and privilege to serve you.

We also want to say "thank you!" to those of you who have referred other customers to us this year. We are deeply grateful for your trust and confidence.

We hope your holidays are filled with joy, and wish you and yours a most healthy and prosperous New Year!



Another Island Targeted for Rat Removal



"Rat Island", an island in Alaska's Aleutian island chain, was so named after it became overrun with rats from the shipwreck of a Japanese sailing ship in 1780. There are no humans living on the island, but the wild birds that nest there are being devastated by the rats.

Plans are currently being drawn up by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a sophisticated baiting program to wipe out the island's rats. This kind of program has proven successful on over 250 other remote, rat-infested islands around the world where rats had been decimating wildlife.

Rats are blamed for causing about half the extinctions of various species worldwide since the 1600s. Since the 1990s, Alaska has maintained a "rat-spill" program in which emergency responders prevent the spread of rats from shipwrecks. This program is considered vital, like their oil-spill contingency plans. In fact, wildlife biologists point out that the environmental damage created by the introduction of rats into some areas is even worse than that of a major oil spill.

More Pests Coming...

Many of our worst pests are not native to this country, but came from other parts of the world via ships and planes. As modern transportation has improved and travel between countries has increased, more pests are accidentally being introduced into the U.S.

Inspectors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are charged with finding and intercepting these pests at airports and shipyards, and they stop literally thousands of destructive pests from entering our country every year. According to the U.S. General Accounting Office, increased travel has multiplied the workload of these inspectors, making new pest invasions ever more likely.



If you go to another country, please don't bring back fruit or other items that may contain pests. And watch that you don't bring back bedbugs!

Ancient Beehives Discovered

In Israel, archaeologists have unearthed 30 intact beehives dating to around 900 B.C., approximately the period that King Solomon reigned. The hives are stacked in neat rows, three tiers high, in a room that would have contained some 100 hives total and been able to produce as much as half a ton of honey per year.

This is an extraordinary find, because it is the first time that actual hives have been discovered anywhere in the ancient Near East, and it indicates that early beekeeping was a much more highly developed industry than had been previously thought. The Bible uses the term "honey" 55 times; 16 times as part of the image of Israel being "the land of milk and honey." But it was commonly believed that the word "honey" usually referred to a type of honey produced from fruits such as dates and figs, partly because bee's honey is explicitly mentioned only twice. This discovery means that real honey from honeybees could have indeed been plentiful in "the land of milk and honey."

