

# JRG

TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

488 Stagecoach Road • Clarksburg, NJ 08510

609-208-1024

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## The Pest Bulletin

# Perimeter Treatments = Easier Housekeeping!

Many pests can be kept out of a home or office with our professional perimeter treatments. Fewer pests is great for many reasons, but one benefit everyone seems to overlook is that it means you have a naturally cleaner home. It saves you time and work cleaning up dead insect bodies, spider webs, insect excrement, and other messes that pests leave behind.

**After all, you have enough cleaning to do!** You shouldn't have to clean up after these uninvited and unwanted "visitors", too!

By reducing pests coming indoors, our perimeter treatments also decrease



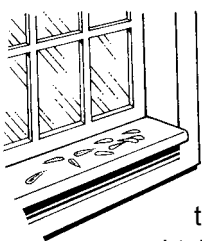
the number of disease organisms being spread around by insects. And since some people are allergic to the dried bodies and droppings of certain pests, getting rid of pests can have other important health benefits as well.

What are perimeter treatments? They are professional protective treatments which we apply around your foundation and to certain other key areas outdoors where we know pests hide and breed. These treatments provide a barrier that helps keep out invading pests. Pests find their way

indoors through countless openings, such as cracks and crevices in the exterior wall and around windows and doors, and the gaps where wires and pipes come inside. Most of these openings are so small that we humans don't even notice them, but pests easily pass through them.

Our perimeter treatments are just one of many tools we use to help prevent pest problems. It's our contribution to your good housekeeping that also helps guard your home, your possessions, and your health.

## Termites Swarming Here Soon



Some time during the months ahead, usually after a warm rain, millions of winged termites will burst out of holes in

the ground and in wood and take to the air. Their sole

mission is to mate and establish new colonies. These termites are weak fliers, and their flight is short—often just a few minutes. Most will end up within a block or two from where they emerged, although a breeze can scatter them further.

The termites soon break off their wings at a weak fracture point and begin looking for a suitable place to start a new colony. Although the vast majority of swarming termites are eaten by birds, lizards, spiders and ants, there are plenty that survive. Those that make it

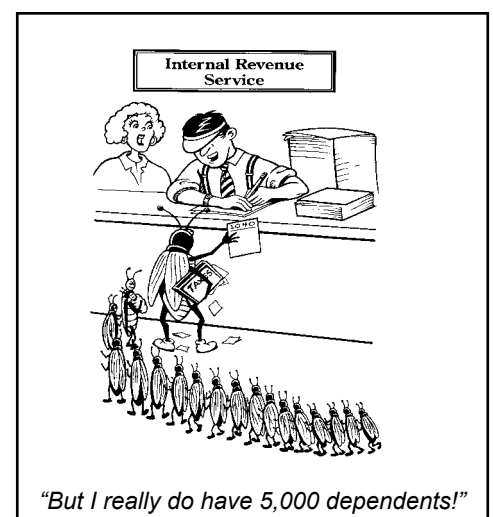
through these dangers and find a nesting site become the queen and king of their own new colony.

The queen lays eggs slowly at first, but as the colony grows and her abdomen expands, her egg laying capacity greatly increases. She will continue laying eggs for the rest of her life. Just three to four years after starting the new colony, it is mature enough to begin sending out its own swarmers that form even more new termite colonies.

You may find swarmers or their broken off wings. If there are good numbers of them inside, you probably have an established colony attacking the wood in your home. Inside or out, don't ignore it—call us right away and arrange for a professional inspection. Early detection and control can prevent expensive damage to your home!

## Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Fungus gnats are common tiny flies. You'll see them around potted plants, windows and lights. Their larvae thrive in the soil of overwatered house plants. You can often control these flies by watering plants less often, allowing the soil to dry out.



## Daddy Longlegs: Deadly or Not?



One of the most persistent urban myths is that daddy longlegs have some of the deadliest venom in the world, but we are fortunate that their fangs are too weak to penetrate human skin. Is this true?

There are actually two common creatures called daddy longlegs. Both have extremely long slender legs. True daddy longlegs, sometimes called harvestmen, are actually in the order Opiliones, which makes them not true spiders, although closely related. These do not produce silk webs, and they completely lack fangs and venom glands.

But just to confuse things, there are a group of spiders in the family Pholcidae that people call daddy longlegs, and they look almost identical to opilionids. Pholcids make webs out of silk and their venom is deadly to small prey like insects. But no person has ever been bitten by one because they have jaws that are unable to penetrate human skin. We just don't know how potent their venom is, and anyone claiming the venom is especially dangerous is just repeating one of those common urban myths they have heard.

## Discovery of Ants that Glide to Safety



Tiny ants that live in the tree-tops of the Amazon have the uncanny ability to glide back to their own tree trunk when they fall. The ants, *Cephalotes atratus*, live in colonies high up in trees. When gusts of wind dislodge the ants, they are able to direct their fall, and 85% land safely back on the same tree trunk. In tests, most of these ants were back in their original location within 10 minutes of the fall.

It now appears that this ant is not alone in being able to direct its fall from tree tops. A study has found 25 out of 60 species of ants can do this to some degree. Several species of carpenter ants were reported to be "pretty good at it".

## Your Questions Answered

**Q. How dangerous is Rat-bite Fever?**

**A.** The Centers for Disease Control recently issued a warning reminding people of the potential danger of Rat-bite Fever. This disease is caused by bacteria that are transmitted to humans, usually by the bite or scratch of an infected rat. Between 10 and 65% of rats carry the bacteria, and the disease has a fatality rate of 7 to 10% if not treated promptly. Even though rat bites are common, fortunately the number of people who get this disease is small.

In 2003, two women died from Rat-bite Fever. One was bitten by a rat at a pet store, and another owned pet rats, but there was no evidence that she had been bitten.

Rodents carry a variety of other diseases that they transmit to humans, especially Salmonella food poisoning, but also hantavirus, typhus, rabies, leptospirosis, plague (through fleas), and trichinosis, in addition to the allergic reactions they cause in some people.



## Mouse Allergen Common Indoors



Unfortunately, mouse allergen may be high enough in the air of many inner-city homes to trigger asthma attacks in children. This was the conclusion of a study at John Hopkins Children's Center, reported in the February issue of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*.

The study, which analyzed the air and dust in 100 inner-city homes of children who had asthma, found that a surprising 84% of their bedrooms had mouse allergen.

What can parents do? According to the lead author of the study, pediatric allergist Dr. Elizabeth Matsui, "One of the best ways parents can manage their child's asthma is to control the home environment and remove any asthma triggers, including mouse allergen. They can do this by sealing cracks and holes in doors and walls, thoroughly disposing of all food remains, and having pest exterminators treat their home."

## Did You Know?

➤ A truck carrying **12 million honey bees** lost control on a freeway ramp in Las Vegas, spilling the bees and honey across the road and forcing state troopers to close the ramp for four hours during the evening rush hour. The truck was carrying 480 bee colonies, each with 25,000 bees which were on their way to pollinate the California almond crop.

➤ Judging from reports in the media, the **most dangerous animals** in the country are alligators, bears, sharks and mountain lions. These are dangerous, of course, but each of these kills an average of less than one person per year in this country.

Compare that to more than 50 documented deaths each year caused by stinging arthropods such as bees, wasps, fire ants, and spiders. And that number does not include the numerous deaths caused by anaphalctic shock and often misdiagnosed as heart attack or other causes.

