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PEST CONTROL

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Pest Patrol News

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Spiders, Spiders Everywhere!

Spiders may eat insects, but for very good reasons, most people would rather not have them around their home or business. Their webs are creepy and annoying, they leave stains and piles of insect carcasses below them (*ick!*), and a few species have a nasty bite. Besides these facts, many people have some degree of "arachnophobia," or fear of spiders, and just don't want them around.

Fortunately, although a few spiders have poisonous bites and do have the capability to bite us, the vast majority have venom that doesn't harm us, or have mouthparts that can't penetrate our skin. But



it's still wise to have a healthy respect for them, unless you are an expert and can distinguish the many different kinds of spiders.

Besides our treatments, it's always a good idea to remove debris and wood piles, and trim weeds and heavy shrubbery around the outside of your home where spiders hide and breed. Also, outside use lower wattage lights, yellow lights, or sodium vapor lights, so you won't attract as many night-flying insects that provide food for spiders. You can also shield outdoor lights so they don't attract insects from long distances.

Our spider treatments around the perimeter of your home or business



are very effective in killing them. This is not a one-time treatment, because new spiders are hatching all the time from spider egg sacs. Young spiders "balloon" through the air from nearby areas, reinfesting previously treated sites.

CHANGES!

RES.COM service technicians are dressed in new uniforms!

First time in over 10 years!

Visit us at ResComPestControl.com

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Food for Pets, Not Pests!

All too often the joy of having pets (dogs, cats, birds, fish, etc.) is dampened by having more problems with troublesome pests, especially pests that are eating the pet food. *It doesn't have to be that way!* Here are some tips to help prevent pet food from attracting pests.

➔ **STORE** all dry pet food and treats in containers with tight-fitting lids. If you have an old forgotten box of dog treats, fish food, bird seed, or other pet food around, use it or get rid of it. You can store pet food in the refrigerator to keep it from becoming infested with beetles and moths.

➔ **FEED** your pet only as much as it will eat at one time, then remove any leftovers. Uneaten pet food, especially if it is left out overnight, attracts ants, cockroaches, and bigger pests like mice,

rats, and even raccoons and skunks—and some of these animals may fight with your pet for the food, and expose it to rabies.



➔ **CLEAN UP** any pet food crumbs and spills daily.

➔ **BIRD FEEDERS** are a problem because birds easily spill seeds on the ground, which

attracts rats, mice, and squirrels. Use a bird feeder that has a broad tray to catch spilled seed, or clean up spilled seeds daily. Placing feeders away from the house whenever possible also is a good idea, so you don't attract rats and mice to your home.

If you have problems with any pests associated with your pets, including fleas and ticks, be sure to give us a call!



Kudos to the Chef—we can't wait to bring back our friends tomorrow!

Termite Damage to Plastic Sheeting

A new study has found that certain termites can damage plastic cable sheathings, the kind used for communication and power cables. The study was very thorough—different types of plastic cable sheathings were exposed to eight different termite species in six countries. Termites in Australia caused the most damage. Our native subterranean termites did not damage the sheathings tested, but the Formosan termite that is spreading in this country did cause minor damage to some of the plastics, particularly low-density polyethylene.

Termites in some countries have caused major problems with underground communication and power cables. Termites do not consume plastic for food, so it may be surprising that they cause any damage at all. They are soft-bodied insects, but their mandibles are quite hard, and our native termites often damage various non-wood substances, including carpet, linoleum, vinyl, PVC pipe, foam board insulation, drywall, and even asphalt and softer metals.

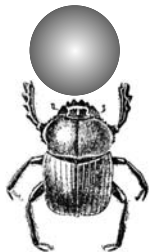


Starry Nights and Dung Beetles

You might say dung beetles live for manure. Yuck! They make animal droppings into balls, and then quickly roll the balls straight away from the pile of dung. They must make these balls and roll them away quickly, as other dung beetles may be watching them, and will try to steal the finished balls if they can—that's what it is like in the world of dung beetles.

It is known that these beetles navigate using the sun during the day and the moon at night when they roll their dung balls away from the pile. But how do they still roll their balls of dung in a straight path at night when there is no visible moon? New research shows that on moonless nights dung beetles actually use the Milky Way to orient themselves. This is the very first time an insect has ever been shown to orient itself using stars.

The researchers discovered this using a variety of different tests. They eventually brought dung beetles into a planetarium and observed their ball-rolling behavior as they changed the position of the Milky Way on the domed ceiling.



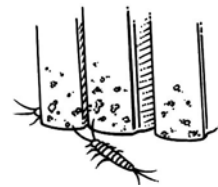
Pest Damage to Books and Papers

Some pests eat paper or glazing on paper, and can cause serious damage to books and valuable photos and papers. These pest-damaged items can be expensive or even impossible to repair.

The type and extent of damage depends on the pest. **Termites**, and various **beetles** that infest stored food, fabrics, or carpets, will actually burrow through books and papers. (Occasionally you'll hear in the news about stacks of money that have been damaged by termites!)

Other pests (**silverfish**, **firebrats**, and **cockroaches**) just graze the surface and cause their damage that way. **Booklice** (psocids) and **fungus beetles** feed on mold and other kinds of fungus that can grow on books and papers. **Rodents** can cause extensive damage—they sometimes chew books and papers to use them for nesting material. Besides these kinds of damage, pests stain books and papers with their smashed bodies, urine, and droppings.

Controlling these pests helps prevent costly damage to paper products, and helps keep treasured items undamaged. It is just one more reason why our regular professional visits are so important!



How Blue is Your Honey?

Beekeepers in northeastern France were shocked when their bees started producing honey in shades of blue and green. It was also costing them money, because the honey couldn't be sold—it didn't meet France's honey standards.

The mystery of the colored honey was solved when it was discovered that instead of collecting nectar from flowers, the bees were feeding on the remnants of colored M&M candy shells that were being processed by a nearby biogas plant. Once the processing plant 2.5 miles away from the hives began storing the candy waste better, the problem disappeared.



Beware of Stinging Pests!

Summer is the time when many people get stung by stinging pests such as bees, wasps, yellowjackets, hornets, and stinging ants, especially fire ants. Besides these bites being extremely painful, somewhere *between 3.3% and 5%* of adults can have a severe allergic reaction, requiring immediate medical attention, when they are stung by one of these pests. Up to 100 Americans die each year from allergic reactions to these stings, but that is only the number reported; it is believed that the actual number is far higher.

Our treatments reduce your chance of being stung, but you still need to take normal precautions, including wearing shoes, (especially in grassy areas), keeping trashcans covered, and staying away from any insect nests you find.

Also, since bees and wasps are attracted to containers of sweet liquids outdoors, be sure to check your glass or soda can before bringing it up to your mouth. Many people get stung on their lips and inside their mouths when these insects have landed on the container to drink.

