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Pest Patrol News

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DEBIT & CREDIT

Our Perimeter Treatments Protect

Outdoor pests become active again as soon as the weather starts to warm up. As these various pests with four, six, eight, or even more legs crawl and fly about, some eventually find their way into unprotected homes and other buildings.



Fortunately, there is an easy, painless way to prevent pests from getting indoors.

Our company has the experience to keep outdoor pests from coming inside with our expert and professionally applied **perimeter treatments**. These treatments are applied around the outside of

your home, and are especially effective at stopping crawling pests from coming indoors, including pests such as ants, earwigs, crickets, centipedes, sowbugs, beetles, stink bugs, and all the other pests that multiply outdoors and invade homes.

Besides being a nuisance, invading pests can cause many different kinds of problems. For example, crickets when they come indoors not only feed on and damage fabrics like drapes and clothes, they also have a very annoying and loud

chirp. Invading pests also leave stains and odors, contaminate human and pet food, leave cobwebs, dead bug bodies, dried skins, and droppings, and some bite, sting, cause allergies, or spread diseases.

Our perimeter treatments provide a valuable line of defense against invading pests, so you and your family, pets, and house can enjoy the many benefits of a healthier, cleaner life with fewer or no pests. These treatments demonstrate the truth of the old saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!"

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Moisture attracts and sustains various pests, so eliminate anything that is creating areas with excess moisture both inside and around the outside of your home. This includes leaky faucets, condensation, foliage close to the sides or roof of your home, clogged gutters and downspouts, and thick layers of mulch.

Those Busy Ants

Around the country, both native and new ant species are spreading and invading new areas. Many of these ants are new species from other parts of the world, and they are especially serious pests. Newer, spreading ants include various species of *fire ants*, *crazy ants*, *trap-jaw ants*, *Argentine ants*, *white-footed ants*, and *pharaoh ants*, to name a few.

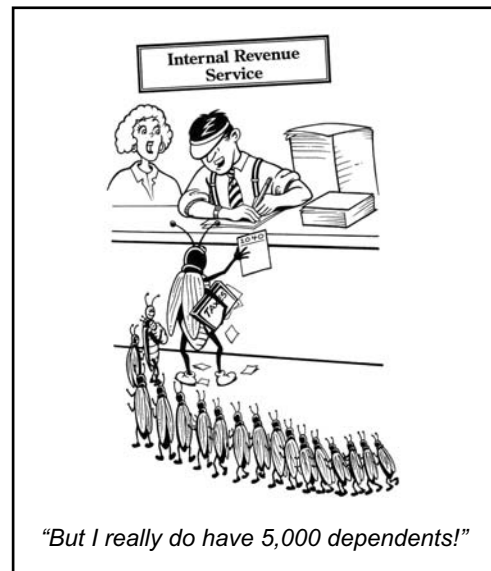
Together with our native ant species, these ants have become the nation's #1 pest in terms of the number of people who call to have them controlled. Ant invasions are common and persistent.

Ant colonies will be humming with activity in the months ahead. There is an abundance of food, and queen ants are laying eggs at their top capacity. At various times ants wander indoors, searching for food,

moisture, or a better nesting site. If they find what they are looking for, expect more ants to follow—often hundreds or thousands of ants within an hour of the discovery.

Most people don't realize that *honeydew* is an important food of many ant species. Honeydew is especially abundant outside during the months ahead, and ant colonies grow in size rather quickly when honeydew and other food sources are plentiful. What is honeydew? It is a very sweet substance excreted by aphids and other plant-sucking insects. Honeydew is so important to ants that some species actually tend and protect the aphids that produce it, much like cowboys care for a herd of cattle.

Ants are persistent invaders that require professional treatments to keep them controlled. If you are having problems with ants, call us—we are the area *ant experts!*



Trillions of Insects Flying Overhead

Did you know insects are moving in a vast congested highway over our heads?

A few months ago a report in the journal *Science* documented a study of insects that fly over a region in south-central England. Using a special radar and balloon-supported aerial netting system, they trapped airborne insects over a 10 year period.



They calculated that an astounding 3.5 trillion insects weighing 3,200 tons migrate annually over the region! No one had expected numbers this high. The insects generally flew north in the spring and then south in the fall.

By the way, the effort to better understand the movement of insects in the sky has been going on for some time now. When Charles Lindbergh crossed the Atlantic in 1933, his plane was fitted with sticky glass slides to trap insects.

The all-time record for an insect caught at the highest altitude is a termite captured in 1961 at 19,000 feet.

Migrating Birds Spread Ticks



Scientists have found that birds are an important way that ticks are carried to new areas, and that sometimes those ticks are carrying disease-causing organisms.

In one study, 9 species of ticks were collected from 33 species of passerine birds (these are songbirds or perching birds). Some birds migrate from as far away as South America, then redistribute the ticks as they fly throughout North America.

In another study, researchers found that about 7% of the birds examined were carrying ticks. Over half of these ticks were infected with microorganisms that cause disease in humans, including *Lyme disease*, *human granulocytic anaplasmosis (HGA)*, and *human monocytic ehrlichiosis (HME)*.

Advice When Choosing a Kitchen Counter

A study by the Hospitality Institute of Technology and Management showed that not all kitchen countertops are equal when it comes to how well they can be cleaned. In the study, each different surface was contaminated with nearly 2 billion *E. coli* bacteria, then the surfaces were washed and rinsed with soap and water, and finally with a vinegar and water solution.

The results demonstrate that stainless steel countertops are easiest to clean, with very few germs left after the simple cleaning procedure described above. More germs survive cleaning on surfaces like plastic laminate and wood surfaces, so stronger cleaning compounds are needed to sanitize these surfaces.

The study suggests that stainless steel is an excellent choice for a new residential or commercial food preparation counter.



(As a point of reference, after cleaning a stainless steel countertop contaminated with 2 billion bacteria, there would only be 23 remaining. For a wood countertop, there would still be almost 1 million bacteria remaining after cleaning.)

Did You Know?

Pests carry disease organisms both on the inside and outside of their bodies. Pests like roaches and flies are known to carry an especially large variety of germs, some of which cause serious illness in humans. Pests contaminate kitchen countertops by simply walking across them, as well as by regurgitating food, and leaving droppings. This is one common way countertops become contaminated with bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

REDUCTION IN BACTERIA BY CLEANING

Stainless Steel	-----85,000,000 to 1
Granite	-----79,000,000 to 1
Plastic laminate	-----500,000 to 1
Tile	-----300,000 to 1
Concrete	-----33,000 to 1
Wood	-----2,000 to 1

Pest Trivia!

1. When is National Pest Management Month?

April. It recognizes the valuable contribution of what we do, as pest management professionals, every day to protect health, food, property, and homes from pests and the diseases they carry.

2. What percent of people have encountered bed bug problems?

In a recent survey by the National Pest Management Association, an amazing 70% of urban residents indicated they have encountered bed bugs in their home, office, a hotel, or other location.

3. How long does it take for a tarantula to dissolve a small mouse?

1 1/2 days

4. Why do people often get several flea bites in a row?

Apparently dog and cat fleas find humans somewhat distasteful, so they keep biting and sampling the blood, hoping to find more tasteful blood. In contrast, the much less common flea called the "human flea" quickly settles down and leaves only one bite mark.

5. What is the shortest poem in the world?

(It is a pest poem often attributed to famed poet Ogden Nash.)

*Fleas
Adam
had 'em.*

