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DEBIT & CREDIT

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Pest Patrol News

Overlooked Health Benefits

Most people use our services because they don't want to be bothered by pests. There are good reasons to do this, because pests in your home are a nuisance, are disgusting and are an embarrassment. They also damage items and create messes, meaning you end up spending more time cleaning up their droppings, regurgitations, stains, dead pest bodies, and cast-off skins. YUCK! If these were all the benefits from regular professional pest control, it would be more than enough.

But an even bigger value of living pest-free is somewhat more hidden, and it involves health issues caused by pests.



By controlling pest problems before they become bigger problems, we make your home a much healthier place to live. The *Salmonella* outbreak that was caused by contaminated peanuts is just one example that underscores the problems pests cause. An unknown number of people became sick, and some died, because of poor sanitation and pest control in a peanut factory. Pests like rats, mice, cockroaches, and other pests are common carriers and spreaders of Salmonella.

Salmonella poisoning is actually extremely common. There are 1.4 million cases of this illness every year in this country, and about 500 people die

from it. And Salmonella poisoning is only one of hundreds of diseases pests spread or transmit.

Regular professional pest control also means less chance of painful or life-threatening stings and bites from pests, as well as reduced allergies from pests like cockroaches, fleas, and mice.

Our professional pest management services are an incredible value. We are very proud to be serving a critical role of **"protecting your property, health, and the environment."**

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

After deciduous trees have dropped their leaves is a great time to check your roof gutters and make sure they are not plugged up. Gutters easily get clogged with leaves, branches, and other debris. When water backs up in them, mosquitoes breed there, and extra water can spill over onto the side of a home.

Ultrasonics Are Worthless



Who hasn't seen an ad touting the benefits of an ultrasonic, electromagnetic, or

similar pest control device? "Just plug it in!" Or seen them in a magazine ad, or at the local hardware store? With all the advertising, you would think they actually work. But it just means they are easy to sell, proving again the old adage, "There is a sucker born every minute."

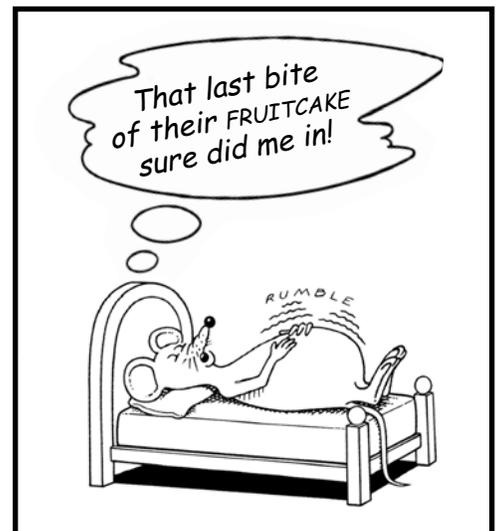
These devices sell for anywhere from \$6.99 to \$200.00 or more, but hundreds of tests by universities and other unbiased testing agencies show that for both rodents and insects, none of them work. Ultrasonic flea repellers attached to cat and dog collars were the rage a few years ago, but studies showed they made no difference in flea numbers.

Then came ultrasonic devices you

could install on the front of your car to supposedly drive away deer. But after deer crashed into many of these cars, and more tests were done that showed they had absolutely no effect on deer, moose, or even kangaroos, amazingly, you can still buy them!

Why don't ultrasonic devices work? There are many reasons. Rodents and insects have no reason to avoid ultrasounds, plus they rapidly become accustomed to repeated sounds, a process called habituation. They also quickly learn that the sounds are not dangerous.

So, if you are thinking of spending money this holiday season to buy an ultrasonic pest control device as a gift, don't throw away your money! The wise old adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is" fits these devices perfectly.



Mosquito and Tick Diseases Triple



The Centers for Disease Control reported this year that from 2004 to 2016, illnesses from mosquito, tick, and flea bites have **tripled** in the United States. Not only were more than 640,000 cases reported during that period, but nine new pathogens were discovered that were transmitted by these pests.

Patriotic Pests



The Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia is said to be the place where the first American flag was stitched together in 1776.

This house is filled with valuable artifacts of that era, including miles of fabrics, plus period chairs and mattresses stuffed with horsehair stuffing. This is all great food for clothes moths, and unfortunately, a serious infestation of a species known as *webbing clothes moths* was discovered there in 2015.

Although the collections manager worked to eliminate the problem, she realized in early 2017 that the infestation had spread to other rooms. At that time a pest control company was called in, and fortunately they were able to eliminate what was becoming an extensive infestation. The company still checks on the house quarterly to monitor and see if the clothes moths return. Fortunately, the most valuable artifacts mostly escaped damage by the moths.



Thank You!

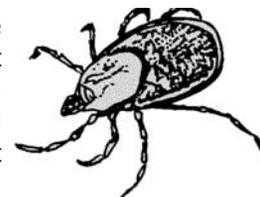
We want to say "Thank You!"

We appreciate your business and support, and the many referrals that come our way each year because of our happy customers.

***We wish each of you Peace, Joy,
Good Health, and Prosperity
throughout the new year!***

A New Tick is Spreading

In the spring we talked about a new tick, called the **longhorned tick** (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*), that is native to Asia but had been found for the first time in New Jersey the previous summer. Everyone had hoped the tick infestation was eradicated, and that it hadn't spread.



Unfortunately, some of the ticks somehow escaped the treatments, and they were found again this summer on the same property. In addition, awareness of the tick has greatly increased around the country. It has been sighted this year in two other counties in New Jersey, as well as locations in New York, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and even Arkansas.

Most of these other tick infestations were probably not from the original New Jersey infestation. It is still unclear if these are all isolated and small infestations, or the tick is more widespread than anyone thought.

This tick is a very serious pest of livestock in other parts of the world where it occurs, but it will also feed on pets, wild animals, and humans as well. It is an aggressive biter. Although it does not appear to be carrying any diseases so far here, in other parts of the world it carries some very serious pathogens.

Continue to take steps to protect yourselves, your children, and your pets from ticks, and report any unusual ticks you find.

Bees Stopped During Solar Eclipse



Surprisingly, the total solar eclipse in August of 2017 was the first time bee activity has ever been studied during a solar eclipse. Scientists, together with "citizen-scientists" (such as teachers, students, and enthusiasts) set up 16 acoustic monitoring stations with microphones in three states along the path of solar totality.

Can you guess what happened? Bees continued to fly even during the partial eclipse phase, but all bee activity stopped during total eclipse. It was the same at every monitoring station.

The next total eclipse in the U.S. will come in 2024. There is so much still to discover!

Hurricane Brings Giant Mosquitoes

Just two weeks after Hurricane Florence hit North Carolina on September 14, huge mosquitoes started to emerge and bite people. These are *Psorophora ciliata*, also called "gallinippers." These mosquitoes are two to three times larger than other mosquitoes, and they can easily bite right through most clothing.

While they are found throughout the eastern U.S., they are not very common until after a flood. These mosquitoes lay eggs in low grassy areas, and the eggs may lay dormant for years until the area floods, when millions quickly hatch and develop into adult biting mosquitoes.

Fortunately, gallinippers don't carry any human diseases, but their bites are nasty, and painful.

