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Pest Patrol News

CALL TOLL FREE 1-888-744-8989

Perimeter Protection is Wise

Every day, 24/7, pests are trying to invade our homes and businesses. Not only do they find food and moisture inside, but also a more moderate climate, plus many places to nest and multiply.

These "uninvited guests" cause damage and require us to clean more often. They also create significant health hazards by stinging, biting, spreading germs that cause diseases, and contributing to asthma problems

That is the reason our **perimeter treatments** are so valuable. They provide a "protective shield" or barrier that stops many pests **before** they ever enter your home. By professionally treating

around the outside of your foundation, and in other key outdoor areas, we can stop many kinds of pests right there—before they ever contaminate your indoor living areas.

Pests like *ants*, *spiders*, *earwigs*, *crickets*, *centipedes*, *millipedes*, and *clover mites* are just a few of the many pests that are stopped by perimeter treatments. These pests typically are breeding outdoors and crawl in through cracks and crevices. Some of



these invaders thrive and multiply indoors, doing all kinds of damage. Other kinds die within a few days because it's too dry, or there's no food to their liking. These dead bugs can attract scavengers that eat the carcasses and go on to destroy or contaminate other things in the building.

Our valuable perimeter treatments are just one of the important tools we use to enable our customers to enjoy the benefits of a more *pest-free life!*

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

When landscaping, don't choose plants that produce an abundance of fruits, nuts, or seeds, unless you plan to harvest and eat them. When these drop on the ground, they provide food for a variety of rodent, animal and insect pests, and look unsightly.

Watch For Ants!

It's no wonder ants get into so many homes and businesses. There are about **10 thousand trillion** of them on earth. (That's one followed by 16 zeros!) You likely have a few million living very near you.

When you think about it, our homes and offices provide ants with everything they are looking for—food, water, and shelter. In fact, if ants could talk to us, they would surely thank us for providing them with such fine accommodations!

Ants thrive for a number of reasons. We have all witnessed their amazing food-finding abilities. Each colony sends out hundreds or thousands of scouts *every day* to find new sources of food and water. Once they make a discovery, they scurry back to their colony, leaving a scent trail as they go. Often within a matter of minutes of the discovery of food, there

can be hundreds of ants swarming over their new-found snacks!

Stinging by fire and harvester ants, and damage from carpenter ants, are serious problems. But ants also can carry disease-causing organisms such as the bacteria that cause common food poisoning. Ants pick up germs because they are scavengers that feed on many things, including the carcasses of dead animals.

We are the *area ant experts*, and no ant problem is too difficult for us. If you have ants, call us and we will expertly control these and other pest problems. Also tell your friends, neighbors, and relatives about our expert and friendly services!



You have slept long enough my darlings—time to wake up and start invading!

Thank you for your business and referrals!

Bed Bugs Have Seasonal Patterns

Unfortunately, bed bug problems will start spreading and becoming more serious in the months ahead. According to a new study published in the *Journal of Medical Entomology* of the bed bug problem in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, bed bug infestations reach a low in February of each year, then start increasing, reaching a peak number of new infestations in August.



It is suspected that bed bugs are migrating over short distances, such as between rooms or apartments, but sometimes even between houses. But these blood-suckers are also hitching rides on people or personal effects over longer distances, and starting new infestations that way.

A different study of the entire U.S. a couple years ago had similar findings, but reported a "peak bed bug season" of July through September. There was a noticeable surge in people requesting bed bug treatments during that period. The study noted that bed bugs not only become more active and move around more during that warmer period; it also takes them less time to mature and reproduce when it is warmer.

Spider Web Discovery

New research at Oxford University shows that spider webs are not as passive as we have always thought at catching prey. The threads of spider webs are actually coated with electrically charged glue that causes the web to pull closer to and 'grab' electrically charged particles, including airborne droplets, and even insects.



This actually boosts a web's effectiveness at catching passing insects. It may also explain how strands of spider webbing so quickly get dusty in homes—they apparently pull in dust and other air-borne particles that then get stuck on the sticky strands, resulting in ugly, dust covered strands.

West Nile Virus Killing Bald Eagles

Bald eagles started dying in early December in Utah, and by early January of this year there were *40 confirmed deaths* of the majestic birds. Although West Nile Virus (WNV) from the beginning was the suspected killer, until the virus was positively identified wildlife officials were unsure because the virus had never been reported so late in the year.

WNV is transmitted by the bites of infected mosquitoes, and birds serve as important carriers of the virus. Infected mosquitoes transmit the virus to birds when they bite them, and then more mosquitoes become infected with the virus when they bite infected birds. Some bird species are much more susceptible than others. This is the first time so many bald eagles have died from the virus.

No new dead bald eagles were discovered after early January, so it seems that the main season when WNV was being transmitted to the eagles has ended for now.

WNV is a serious mosquito-transmitted virus first discovered in New York City in 1999, but now has been reported throughout the continental United States. If an infected mosquito bites a person, most people exhibit no symptoms, but some develop a fever and flu-like symptoms, and a small percentage of people infected with WNV die every year. Most cases of WNV occur from June to September.



Dog Mummy Had Blood-Sucking Parasites



An Egyptian dog mummy, a young puppy possibly dating from as far back as the fourth century B.C., was recently discovered. It was found to have *61 brown dog ticks* still clinging to its coat and in its ear, plus a *blood-sucking louse fly*.

This is the first time these parasites have been found on dogs from this far back, and it is important because discoveries like this can provide clues about the spread of blood-sucking parasites and diseases around the world. The brown dog tick is now common in this country and in warmer areas around the world. The dog that was mummified may have died from canine babesiosis, a tick-transmitted disease that we have in this country.

Tax Benefits From Bugs?

Unfortunately, destruction to your home or furnishings from pests such as termites and carpet beetles is **not tax deductible**. Likewise *homeowners insurance does not cover losses from pests*, even if the pests cause extensive damage. (This is another reason our regular preventative service is such a wise choice.)



The only way you can get a tax write-off from bugs is if you donate a collection of them to a museum. If they are properly labeled and mounted on pins, they can be worth real money. The average collection donated to a university museum is worth five thousand dollars, according to a university entomologist who is an expert in valuing insect collections.