

No Pests = A Cleaner Home

Some years ago, a toy manufacturer came out with a line of toys called "Real Pests." Trying to cash in on the popularity of special toy dolls that burped-up liquid, the pest toys spewed "goo". *OH Great—another mess to clean up!* Well, the Real Pests toys were a colossal flop, and today, fortunately, you can't find them anywhere.

Unlike these toys, the messes actual pests create are truly dirty and unsanitary. It is also far more time consuming and difficult to clean up the messes they make. Pests are not house-broken and they leave



their droppings everywhere. But droppings are only part of the problem.

Rodents, for instance, not only leave their droppings—they also chew things up and make nests of it, urinate everywhere they go, and leave grease marks and hairs.

Flies regurgitate (throw-up) their food, and then lap it up again. When they do this on our food or food counters, they spread countless microbes and leave spots.

Cockroaches leave behind their egg cases, droppings, and particles of their shed skins, all of which can cause

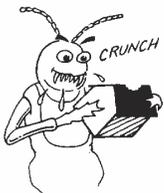
allergies. Because they crawl in damp, dirty, dark places, these pests carry a very unhealthy mix of disease-causing germs with them.

Fleas suck blood and poop dried blood which their larvae feed on.

Spiders leave spider webs and egg cases, excreted body fluids, and carcasses of dead insects.

These are just a few common examples of the unsanitary messes pests create. By eliminating pests, our regular professional pest management services help make it easier to keep a cleaner home, with fewer germs!

Uninvited Guests Eating Your Home?



Most of us have been unfortunately inviting fewer guests to our homes for a meal this past year. But termites, which are both uninvited and unwanted, continue to enter homes as much as ever. They often become permanent residents with us, feasting on the wood that holds our homes together. Don't let this happen to your home!

Regular inspections help protect your investment by identifying conditions that encourage termites, and catching infestations early, sometimes before they have done any major damage. The wood in our homes can last for centuries, but neglect can cause wood-destroying pests to ruin all that.

Termites, carpenter ants, wood-boring beetles, and wood decay all attack our wooden structures. Besides looking

for these pests and signs of their presence, an inspection also finds conditions that increase the likelihood of their attack. For subterranean termites, conditions that encourage them include *water leaks, poor drainage, cracked foundations, wood that touches the soil, tree stumps and roots too close to a foundation, dirt-filled steps, soil above siding*, and many other seemingly insignificant situations that can end up attracting wood-destroying pests.

If you think termites or other wood-destroyers may be in or under your home, call us right away to set up an appointment for an inspection. Get the job done right—we are professionals and know these serious pests and how best to get rid of them. Proper evaluation of the problem, along with professional treatment techniques, are essential to stop or prevent these common invading 'house guests' from feasting on your home.

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Animals are breaking into homes, garages, and sheds, and can cause a lot of damage. Inspect and repair all air vents to make sure the wire mesh is still securely attached, and there are no large holes or gaps where it has been pushed in.



Why do you ALWAYS pick the house where everyone is on a diet?!?

Eradicating Rats Wiped out Mosquitoes



The Palmyra Atoll is a little known, small chain of islets a thousand miles south of Hawaii. Rats had invaded it while troops were there during World War II. Without natural predators, the rats thrived, devouring seabird eggs, native crabs, and whatever seeds and seedlings they could find. The rats eventually wiped out the native crabs and a number of ground-nesting seabirds.

Fortunately, the rats on the atoll were eradicated in 2011 in a coordinated rat baiting project. *Crabs and seabirds came back, as expected, but another, completely unexpected benefit resulted—mosquitoes stopped biting.* A two-year survey was just completed, and it confirms this, having found not a single Asian Tiger mosquito there.

The Asian Tiger mosquito (a species that invaded the U.S. in 1985 and is now in 40 states), is capable of transmitting a number of dangerous diseases to humans. This mosquito feeds during the day, preferentially on mammals (including rats and people on the islet). Before the rats were eliminated these mosquitoes tormented the few people who were there. There are only from five to 30 scientists who live there at any one time.



Were the mosquitoes eliminated because their main host, rats, were eliminated, and there were not enough people and no other mammals to feed on? Perhaps, but that is not the whole story. When the rats were there, they gnawed the fallen coconut shells in half so they could eat the succulent coconut flesh inside. These half-shells littered the atoll. The coconut shells would fill with rainwater and became ideal places for mosquito larvae to grow.



With the rats gone, the main food source of the mosquitoes was gone, plus the mosquitoes had a harder time finding standing water to complete their life cycle. *The rats were not only causing problems themselves, they were also the reason dangerous mosquitoes thrived there!*

Lone Star Ticks—A Growing Threat



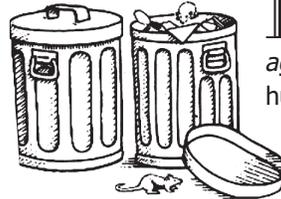
The Lone Star tick got its name because it has a characteristic white dot, vaguely star-shaped, on its back. Many people have never heard about this tick, but it is spreading in this country. Although it fortunately doesn't transmit the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, it increasingly has been found transmitting some other serious new and expanding diseases.

This tick is now in much of the eastern half of the country. Its northern spread use to be limited to southern New Jersey, but in the last few decades they have been spreading north, all the way to southern Canada.

The bite of the Lone Star tick has been found to transmit several serious disease-causing organisms, including **Heartland virus, tularemia, ehrlichiosis, southern tick-associated rash illness** (known as STARI, which causes a rash similar to Lyme disease), and the **Bourbon virus**. Strangely enough, the bite of the lone star tick can also cause a person to develop an *allergy to red meat*, known as **alpha-gal syndrome**, discovered in 2009.

Interestingly, the new Heartland virus that this tick transmits was discovered in 2009 in Missouri. So far it appears that the Lone Star tick is the primary transmitter of the virus to humans. Most people recover from the virus, but there have been two known deaths so far. People have now been infected by the virus in six states, with the most recent infections happening in Illinois. Unfortunately, like many tick-transmitted diseases, Heartland virus is an emerging disease, and we still don't know how far it will spread, and how common a problem it will become.

Rats and Mice are Moving About



Restaurants and other businesses, and often entire cities, have closed, re-opened, and then closed again because of the **COVID-19 virus**. This is causing hungry rats and mice that depend on the human food, trash and litter in these places for their food to wander about more in search of new sources. Sometimes these pests are even being spotted wandering about in the daytime, a sign of rodent

overpopulation and stress.

At the same time, people are spending more time at home, eating more there and creating more food waste that *can attract rats and mice*. Because of this situation, we are alerting everyone to make sure you properly dispose of trash, clean up your premises regularly, keep all stored food in sealed containers and not accessible to rodents, and seal openings rodents might use to enter your home or garage.

