

A-1 PEST CONTROL PRESENTS...



Gazette

IT'S BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR PESTS.

The warm, moist conditions following a mild winter have made it easy for large populations of many different pests to build up quickly and survive in great numbers. Now as the days get shorter and temperatures fall, a lot of these pests will start looking for places to spend the coming winter. Many of them will start coming into our homes and work areas.

This issue of *Pest Gazette* will focus on some pests which often become more of a problem with the onset of cooler weather or with changes in our activities this time of year. Some of these cause problems or concern

just by coming inside in large numbers. Others can pose direct health threats or can cause serious property damage, not to mention scaring off customers who don't like or are afraid of "bugs."

You might need the assistance of Epson-Kowitz Pest Control to determine exactly what your uninvited guests are, how important each kind might be, how to get rid of them, and how to make your home or business less accessible and less inviting to them in the future.

Epson-Kowitz Pest Control is ready and qualified to inspect your home or

business for the presence of pests or the tell-tale signs of their presence. Our technicians can recognize most common pests and their signs. They are ready to provide you immediate information and assistance in controlling them. We will also give you advice on preventive measures you can take to avoid similar pest problems in the future.

For more information about our professional pest management services, call us at [xxx] xxx-xxxx. Schools open, drive safely.

TACKLING TICKS

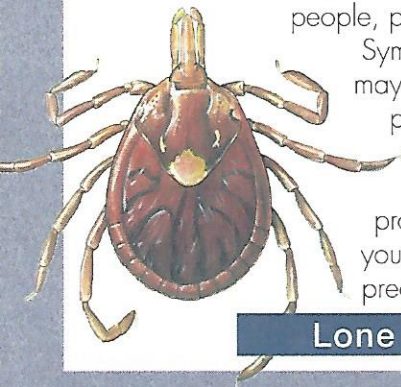
Protecting Your Family Against Pests

Ticks are more than just a nuisance. They carry major disease organisms including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Lyme disease and Ehrlichiosis, affecting people, pets, farm animals and wildlife.

Symptoms of tick-borne troubles may include: fever, headache, joint pain, stiff neck, rash and a lesion around the bite.

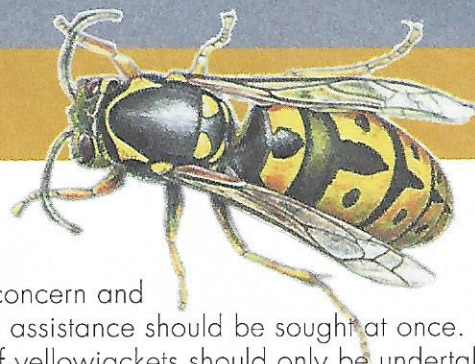
While you can't totally protect yourself, you can reduce your risk of exposure with these precautions:

- ⊙ Wear light-colored clothing so you can see any ticks.
- ⊙ Stay near the center of trails and avoid shrubs and tall grass.
- ⊙ Tuck your pant legs into socks or boots. Wear a long-sleeved shirt tucked into your pants.
- ⊙ Use insect repellents on your skin and clothes. Read the labels first and follow directions.
- ⊙ Check yourself, family and pets frequently for ticks (at least once a day). Some ticks can be as small as a sesame seed.
- ⊙ If you do discover a tick, grasp its mouth parts as close to the skin as possible with a fine tweezer and firmly pull away until it comes off. Apply an antiseptic to the wound. Describe any symptoms of a tick bite to a doctor.



Lone Star Tick

DON'T LET YELLOWJACKETS SET UP A "STING OPERATION" IN YOUR HOME.



Yellowjackets get their name from their yellow-and-black striped color patterns. There are about 16 species throughout the U.S. They are generally considered to be beneficial because they mainly eat other insects, many of which are pests. They are social, and live in colonies, usually making a nest of "paper," usually in underground cavities, but sometimes in bushes or wall voids or attics of buildings. Colony size may vary from a few dozen to several thousand worker wasps. Nests may contain from 300 to over 100,000 cells. Only fertilized queens live over the winter in most species.

Yellowjackets are only a problem when people get close to their nest entrance without knowing it. These wasps can sting repeatedly, and become very aggressive when defending their nest. Their sting is usually very painful and humans can develop a true allergy to their venom. Any later sting can be life threatening. The presence of these or any other stinging pest is cause for

immediate concern and professional assistance should be sought at once.

Control of yellowjackets should only be undertaken by properly trained and equipped professional pest control personnel. Control is best done at night, after carefully noting the exact nest location during the day. The German Yellowjacket and the Western Yellowjacket often nests in building, and the Aerial Yellowjacket often attaches its nest to bushes or buildings. As nests in buildings are expanded, the Yellowjackets often chew through into living or work areas, posing a direct threat to occupants. After a pest controller has controlled all the adult insects from a nest in a building, the nest itself should be removed as completely as possible. If not, it may cause odor problems or attract carpet beetles which often become a secondary pest.

Modern Pest Control is Vital to Modern Living

Professional Skills Needed for Efficient Control



There is no way to assess the economic value or human suffering caused by insects, rodents, birds and other animals. While the total economic loss caused by these pests may never be known, most people are simply irritated by their presence.

People have gone to great extremes to stay one step ahead of pests. But many rodents and insects seem ingenious in their successful attempts to enter your home. Some insects may be carried into the home in bags, on clothing or on pets. Others, such as ants, grasshoppers, crickets, rats and mice, may crawl through cracks and crevices of the foundation to gain entry.

Knowing when to call an expert is important. Searching out the hiding places of pests during all of their development stages and targeting the management efforts precisely requires a competent, knowledgeable and technically trained specialist.

A professional pest control operator is that specialist. A qualified pest control operator has the special training, experience

and tools necessary to assure adequate protection against destructive pests.

Although there are a number of over-the-counter products available for the homeowner, the product's success rate greatly depends on a number of factors. Indiscriminate spraying and fogging can be harmful to homeowners and their families.

Safety is very important. Professionalism within the structural pest control industry helps assure the homeowner that pests can be controlled without harming human health or the environment. Modern pest control professionals first identify and monitor the offending pest and then structure an effective program to control, manage and eliminate the problem for the home, while protecting the inhabitants.

Carpenter Ants could be building a home inside your home.

Carpenter ants get their name from their hollowing out galleries in wood as nests. They can do serious damage to buildings when they cut extensive galleries in structural wood. Although Carpenter Ants do not sting, many are rather large and can cause a painful bite if disturbed. They can also give off formic acid, often directed to the spot they are biting.

The first sign of an infestation may be seeing several sizes of worker ants crawling along a counter top, or small piles of ragged "saw dust" mixed with dirt particles, fragments of insulation, and insect body parts. Each pile of debris is usually directly below a small hole in some wooden part of a cabinet, window sill, or structural part of the building.

Here are some guidelines for selecting a pest control service:

- ✓ A good place to start is to ask someone you know who has used pest control services. Inquire about the type of pest problem encountered and how satisfied were they with the service.
- ✓ Membership in the national, state or local pest control association is a good indicator that the company has access to modern technical information.
- ✓ Reach a complete understanding with the company before work starts; find out what the pest is, how the problem will be treated, the expected length of treatment and the expected results.
- ✓ Be sure you know what is guaranteed and what is not.
- ✓ Buy value, not price. Sometimes, the least expensive price may not be your best bargain.
- ✓ Finally, check your local Better Business Bureau to see if complaints have been filed against the company you are considering.

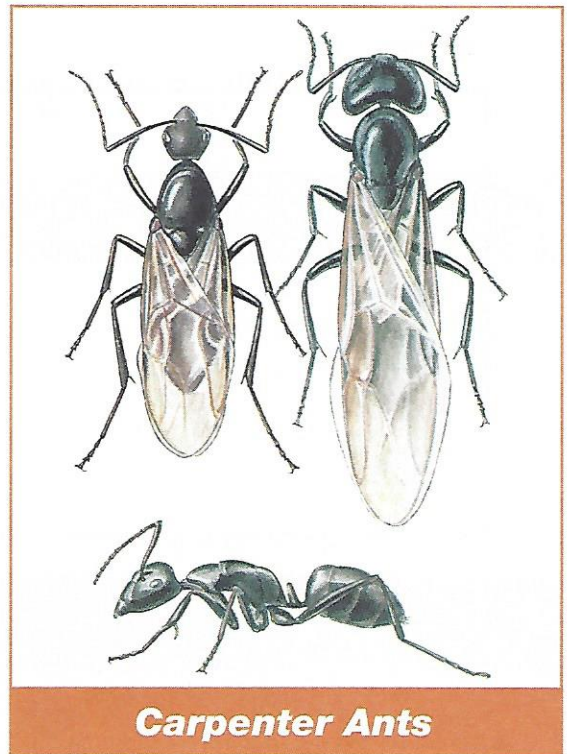
Worker ants push the debris out of their galleries through the small holes. Another common sign, most often seen in Spring, is a swarm of winged reproductives emerging. These may fly to lights, and may be confused with termites.

There are nine species of Carpenter Ants throughout the U.S., with as many as 4 or 5 species commonly seen in some places. The most widespread species are either black or brownish-red and black, but some species may be all orange-red in color. All species mainly attack wood which is, or has previously been, wet and has already been damaged by fungi. A mature colony may include 3,000 to 20,000 ants (depending on the species) and will be two to five years old before they produce their first swarm.

Even though these ants first invade wet, decayed wood, they soon begin expanding their smooth-walled galleries into sound wood. Nearly every Carpenter Ant colony has two or more major sub-nests, with the queen and most reproduction in one "main" nest. That main nest is often outside in a rotten log, tree, stump, or post. Workers often forage as far as 100 meters from the nest. They mainly feed on sweets such as honeydew, plant sap, cereal grains, other insects, and even oily or fatty materials. Our food scraps and crumbs may be an ant banquet. Carpenter ants usually come into buildings through cracks around doors, windows, or through exterior holes for plumbing, electric wires, TV cables, or phone lines. They will also crawl along overhead wires, shrubs or tree limbs which touch the building far above the ground.

Carpenter ants can be hard to control. One must

first determine whether the ants seen indoors have a nest in the structure or are merely foraging there from outside. It usually requires a trained professional to detect the tell-tale signs of typical Carpenter Ant debris, gallery openings, foraging trails, or typical gallery cutting sounds. A Carpenter Ant nest can sometimes be detected in a wall by a rustling sound in a void or in the wood, or by gently "sounding" the wood to detect hollowed-out areas. If they are only foraging from outside, they can be excluded by sealing, caulking or putting down a good physical or chemical barrier. Closing all holes for pipes or wires, and cutting back all trees and shrubs so they don't touch the building can help. If Carpenter Ants have established a nest in the wood of a structure, you will probably need the services of pest control professionals to help determine and implement an effective plan to control them and prevent re-infestation. This is especially true if any form of chemical control is needed.



Carpenter Ants

Ten Percent of Elementary School Children Are Treated for Head Lice

September is traditionally associated with the return to school for millions of school-age children. And, evitably, with the re-opening of school comes increased reports of head lice cases around the country.

Long stigmatized as an indication of poor personal hygiene or poverty, the fact is that virtually all young children are at risk for head lice...no matter their background.

Though it is widely recognized among health professionals that education is a critical component of a successful lice preventive program, the reluctance to discuss this problem and the misconceptions that surround it perpetuate the spreading of the lice from one child to another.

FACTS OF LICE



Head lice are found most often on schoolchildren between the ages of three and 10.



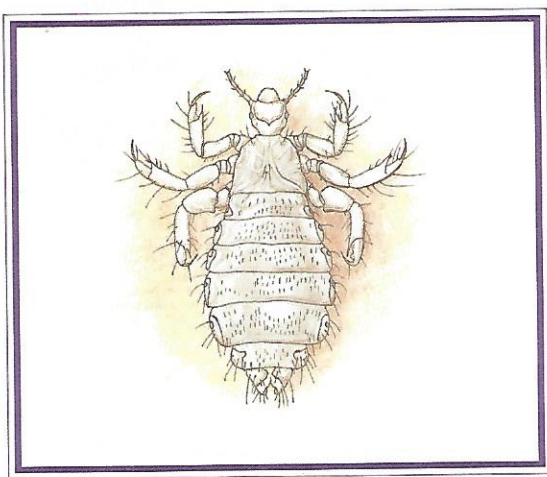
The adult human head louse has six legs, is wingless, measures approximately 1/8" long, and has a claw at the end of each leg that it uses to grasp the hair shaft. Most eggs are laid at night and attached to the bases of hairs. Under optimum conditions, 90 percent of the eggs hatch within seven to 11 days.



Head lice can move rapidly, but cannot jump or fly. Most head lice are probably transmitted when an infested person comes into direct contact with those who are pest free.



Lice and their eggs can be transferred via infested brushes, combs, caps, hats, scarves, coats, bedding, towels and upholstered furniture.



DETECTION



Although some people may not experience itching for several weeks, excessive head scratching is usually the first sign of head lice infestation. Red or blackish fecal specks on the shoulders and back are other indicators. Tiny (1/32" long) yellowish-colored eggs may be seen on the scalp, around the ears and in the nape of the neck.



Scratching can lead to irritated skin, which creates an entryway for germs that can cause conditions such as swollen glands and secondary infections. Severely infected individuals may experience fever and become tired and irritable.

CONTROL AND TREATMENT



A combination of practices such as combing with a louse comb, shampooing with a special soap and educating the children and their parents to prevent and avoid reinfestation, can control head lice successfully.



Each child should have a separate storage space for head coverings and other clothing at home and school to prevent contact with other garments. Children should also be warned not to share hats, clothing and brushes with others.



Wash the bedding and clothing of the infested child at the same time treatment of the hair and scalp is undertaken. You should dry clean garments that cannot be washed.

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