

RM Termite & Pest Control

Professional Service for 2 Generations
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MARCH/APRIL 2016

THE PEST BULLETIN

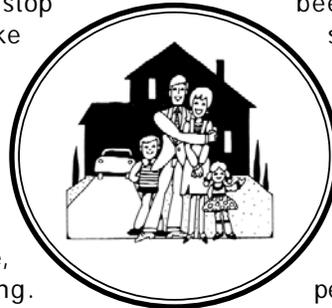
Here Come The Pests!

Pests have been less active outdoors, but that always changes as the weather starts to warm in the spring. As pests wander about outdoors searching for food, water, shelter, mates, and places to lay eggs, many will find their way into homes. *They don't care that you haven't invited them!* For these pests, even the smallest cracks and crevices are like a big, inviting "bug doorway" for them.

Fortunately, our professionally applied **perimeter treatments** help prevent pests from invading your home. These treatments are applied around the foundation of your home and in other key areas. Perimeter treatments are especially effective at stopping crawling pests from invading your home—*halting many pest*

problems before they begin. Our perimeter treatments stop invasions of pests like ants, crickets, centipedes, and many, many others.

Keeping pests out is important not only because they can be a major annoyance, and are embarrassing. Invading pests can also leave odors and stains, droppings and dead insect bodies, and webbing, plus contaminate human and pet food. Some can cause allergies or bite and sting. In fact, every year in this country a *half million* people are rushed to the hospital



emergency room because of stings by bees, wasps, ants, spiders, and scorpions.

Yes, you can be sure pests will return! But our expert perimeter treatments are just one of the many tools we have in our arsenal to help our customers enjoy a more enjoyable life with fewer pests and pest-related problems.

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

With scares about the mosquito-borne *Zika virus* spreading, this year it is even more important to eliminate mosquito breeding places around your home. Mosquitoes don't need much water to breed in, so weekly replace water in birdbaths, and drain water in plant saucers, birdbaths, baby pools, grill covers, and anywhere else where water collects.

Ant Invasion Alert

With an estimated *10 thousand trillion* (that's one followed by 16 zeros!) ants living in the world, it's no wonder that nearly every home has problems with these pests. In recent years ants have become the **#1** pest problem around the country, partly because of the non-native ant species that continue to spread.

Ants are a staggeringly prolific pest. Not only do the queens continue to pump out eggs daily, but many species of ants don't just have one queen per colony—they have many queens. With each queen laying eggs, colonies grow rapidly.

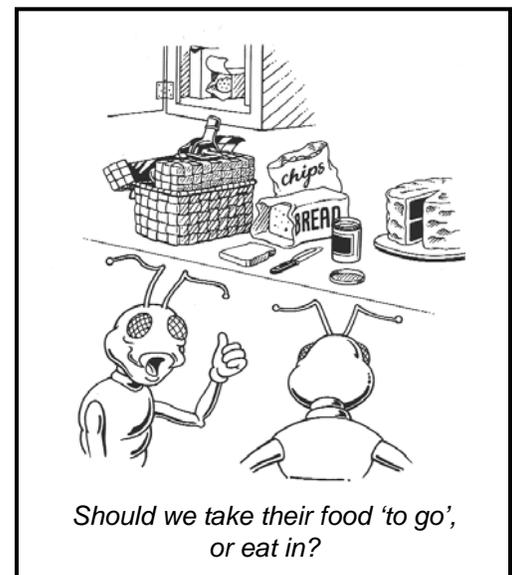
Ants start new colonies by either swarming or budding. As a colony matures, the colony starts producing *swarmers*, or reproductives—these are the winged males and females that wait for perfect weather conditions, then

fly out, mate, and start new colonies. The new queens become egg-laying machines that are cared for and fed by other ants.

Budding is another way some kinds of ants start new colonies. When a colony becomes crowded, or some other adversity arises, one or more queens and some of the worker ants simply break away from the mother colony and start an entirely new and separate colony.

People are sometimes amazed when a large ant colony suddenly appears in their home. This is because some kinds of ants easily move their entire colony around whenever it becomes too wet, hot, dry, etc.

We are ant experts. We understand these prolific, constantly invading pests, and how to get rid of them.



Should we take their food 'to go', or eat in?

El Niño Affects Pests



The El Niño weather patterns we are experiencing now mean different things for different parts of the country, but much of the country will probably be

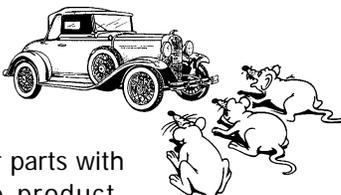
either or both wetter and warmer than normal. Many people are asking what that will mean for pest populations this year.

That is difficult to know at this point, but we can look at the 1997-1998 season, which was also a very strong El Niño year like this one. There was a glut of pests that year—much HIGHER numbers of everything, including mosquitoes, cockroaches, termites, and especially ants.

So be prepared for anything—we may have an especially pest-filled year!

Soy-Based Wiring Attracts Rodents

Many car companies are experiencing problems because they replaced metal or plastic car parts with a bio-degradable product.



Unfortunately, these are sometimes food-based products that pests love to eat. The latest case is Honda, who in their quest to "go green," used a soy-based biodegradable wire coating on some of their engine wiring rather than a plastic coating. Apparently the soy-based coating is quite tasty to hungry mice, rabbits, and squirrels. They will chew on it and cause the engine to malfunction.

One man claims he had to take his 2012 Honda Accord in twice to have the wiring fixed because of gnawing rodents, and there are many other cases of this happening.

Soy used in vehicles has caused some funny problems in the past. In the mid-1940's license plates in some states were made from compressed soy beans and fiberboard, as a way to save on using metal during the war. But they soon found that goats and cows were attracted to the vehicles, and would chew off entire license plates!

Bugs in Our Homes



A new report studied the arthropods in 50 homes near Raleigh, North Carolina. Amazingly, they found a total of 10,000 living and dead arthropods and their parts in the 50 homes—totaling nearly 750 species of insects, spiders, mites, centipedes, millipedes, pill bugs and related creatures. Each

home averaged about 100 species of arthropods.

The researchers were also surprised to find how widespread arthropods were in homes—only five of the 554 rooms inspected did not contain any arthropods at all. Of the insects, there were more different kinds of flies and beetles than anything else.

Not all of the species found actually live and multiply in homes—some die fairly soon after wandering in from outdoors, or are brought in on cut flowers or something else and don't survive long. But some multiply indoors and cause damage, and all add to the house cleanup needed.

This study showed that there are a far greater number of species of creatures in homes than was expected.

Centuries-Old Papers Found in Bird Nests



While restoring a 15th century cathedral near Moscow, a most unusual archive of historic papers was recently discovered. Birds had built nests of dirt, branches, and pieces of paper.

The oldest papers date back to the 1830's. Included in the papers was a 1,000 ruble note, which was a fortune back then. Also found were a multitude of bus tickets, candy wrappers, letters, student's diplomas, birth certificates, and church documents. Bread ration cards from the 1930s, during the time of Stalin's collectivization policies, were also found.

The birds involved were swifts and jackdaws (they are in the crow family). These birds had been using bits of paper for centuries and incorporating them in their nests. The papers could have been found on the ground, but the richness of the findings indicate that the birds may at times have swooped down and stolen them off of tables and other areas where they had been left unattended.

Someone may have even tried to lamely say, "the birds stole my papers!", not that anyone would have believed him.

Silly Bug Riddles

1. Which creature is smarter than a talking parrot?
2. Why did the boy throw butter out the window?
3. What has 18 legs and catches flies?
4. What is worse than a worm in your apple?

Answers:

1. A spelling bee!
2. He wanted to see butterfly.
3. A baseball team.
4. Half a worm.



That's all for now, folks!