

Time for Fall Invaders!

Fall is a busy time for pests as mice, rats, and a wide variety of insects invade homes, searching for a place to spend the winter.

In the fall many pests by instinct search for a dry, warm crevice or cavity such as a hallowed out tree stump or old animal burrow, a wood or rock pile, or underneath loose bark. To pests, our homes and other buildings look very similar to these natural sites. By instinct they crawl deep into cracks and holes in our foundations, walls and roofs, and around the edges of loose-fitting doors and windows.

Often the insect pests crawl in and then later become confused by the lights

and warmth further indoors. Waking up prematurely from their winter stupor and thinking it's already spring, they start crawling towards lighted, warm areas—which means they often head further indoors, right into our living areas, rather than outdoors.

Common fall invaders that can cause problems include the new *Asian lady beetles* and *brown marmorated stink bugs*, *boxelder bugs*, *crickets*, *cluster flies*, *face flies*, and many other *bugs* and *beetles*. In addition, larger pests like *rats* and *mice* also prefer the warmth and dryness



provided by man-made structures, and some kinds of *ants* may move their entire colony indoors.

A few insects indoors can be simply vacuumed up. If you have larger numbers, or a history of pest issues in past winters, call us now to schedule special preventative treatments. Depending on the pests involved, these preventative treatments are often done in early fall.

Uninvited Guests Eating Your Home?

Our busy life styles have unfortunately reduced the number of guests many of us invite into our homes for a meal. But termites, both uninvited and unwanted, continue to enter homes as much or more than ever. They become permanent residents, feasting on the wood that holds our homes together. Don't let this happen to you!

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

Termites, wood-boring beetles, carpenter ants, and wood decay all attack wooden structures. Besides looking for these pests and signs of them, we also find

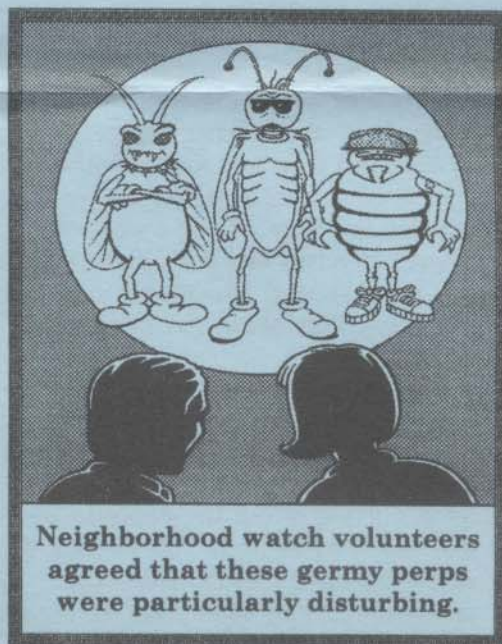


conditions that increase the likelihood of an attack. For subterranean termites, conditions which encourage them include poor drainage, water leaks, cracked foundations, wood that touches the soil, tree stumps and roots too close to a foundation, dirt-filled steps, soil above siding, and many other seemingly insignificant situations that can end up causing expensive problems.

If termites or other wood-destroyers are present, don't panic. Fortunately the termites from Saturday morning cartoons don't exist—most termites eat homes slowly, one ounce of wood at a time, so you have time to call us and get the job done right by professionals. Proper evaluation of the problem and professional treatment techniques are essential in stopping these expensive "house guests" from feasting on your home.

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

When you bring houseplants back into the home after the summer, check them to make sure they are not carrying any unwanted 'hitchhikers'. Some pests may be feeding on the plant itself, and others—like ants, sowbugs, and earwigs—may be hiding in the soil.



Neighborhood watch volunteers agreed that these gummy perps were particularly disturbing.