



PEST MANAGEMENT



YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS
A COMPANY YOU KNOW AND TRUST

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The Pest Bulletin

Overlooked Health Benefits

Most people use our services because they don't want to be bothered by pests. There are good reasons to do this, because pests in your home are a nuisance, are disgusting and are an embarrassment. They also damage items and create messes, meaning you end up spending more time cleaning up their droppings, regurgitations, stains, dead pest bodies, and cast-off skins. YUCK! If these were all the benefits from regular professional pest control, it would be more than enough.

But an even bigger value of living pest-free is somewhat more hidden, and it involves health issues caused by pests.



By controlling pest problems before they become bigger problems, we make your home a much healthier place to live. The Salmonella outbreak that was caused by contaminated peanuts is just one example that underscores the problems pests cause. An unknown number of people became sick, and some died, because of poor sanitation and pest control in a peanut factory. Pests like rats, mice, and cockroaches are common carriers and spreaders of Salmonella.

Salmonella poisoning is actually extremely common. There are 1.4 million cases of this illness every year in this country, and about 500 people die

from it. And Salmonella poisoning is only one of hundreds of diseases pests spread or transmit.

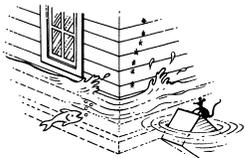
Regular professional pest control also means less chance of painful or life-threatening stings and bites from pests, as well as reduced allergies from pests like cockroaches, fleas, and mice.

Our professional pest management services are an incredible value. We are very proud to be serving a critical role of "protecting your property, health, and the environment."

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

After deciduous trees have dropped their leaves is a great time to check your roof gutters and make sure they are not plugged up. Gutters easily get clogged with leaves, branches, and other debris. When water backs up in them, mosquitoes breed there, and extra water can spill over onto the side of a home.

Pests Multiply After Storms



Recent hurricanes not only have caused death and destruction—pests are thriving, causing public health concerns.

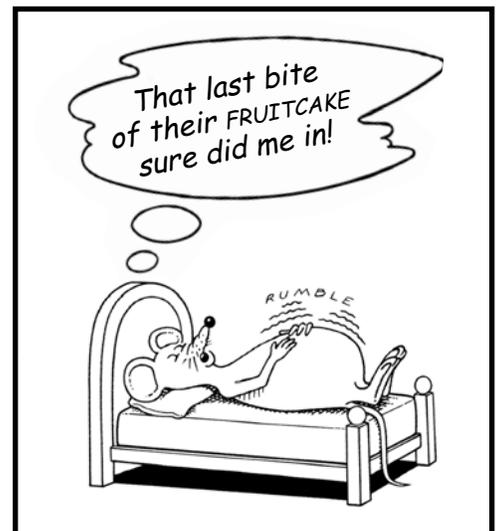
For instance, debris left behind from hurricanes and strong storms is a perfect place for rats and mice to hide and find food, and they thrive under these conditions. Plus, many rats and mice were flooded out. This causes them to move higher into buildings, putting them into closer contact with people. When they do this, they bring diseases with them.

Disease-carrying flies and cockroaches multiply in the wet garbage and debris scattered about after storms. Mosquitoes hatch and multiply in stagnant water left behind by storms. See the back of this newsletter for an example of this.

Bed bugs unfortunately also increase after major catastrophes. They spread when there are people living in shelters and in other close quarters, and when more people share clothes and furniture.

Fire ants can be especially serious problems during and after floods. When the waters rise, fire ants are forced out of their underground nests. They form a loose ball or raft of ants and actually float on the water until they reach a dry object they can crawl up on. These "balls of ants" contain the entire colony—workers, eggs, larvae, pupae, and queens. The ants are very defensive and will vigorously sting you if you touch them!

Extended flooding can kill termite colonies. However, termite colonies that are above the flood area, or in trees or structures, will survive and reseed the area. What sometimes results are fewer, but larger termite colonies.



Mosquito and Tick Diseases Triple



The Centers for Disease Control reported this year that from 2004 to 2016, illnesses from mosquito, tick, and flea bites have **tripled** in the United States. Not only were more than 640,000 cases reported during that period, but nine new pathogens were discovered that were transmitted by these pests.

Patriotic Pests



The Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia is said to be the place where the first American flag was stitched together in 1776.

This house is filled with valuable artifacts of that era, including miles of fabrics, plus period chairs and mattresses stuffed with horsehair stuffing. This is all great food for clothes moths, and unfortunately, a serious infestation of a species known as *webbing clothes moths* was discovered there in 2015.

Although the collections manager worked to eliminate the problem, she realized in early 2017 that the infestation had spread to other rooms. At that time a pest control company was called in, and fortunately they were able to eliminate what was becoming an extensive infestation. The company still checks on the house quarterly to monitor and see if the clothes moths return. Fortunately, the most valuable artifacts mostly escaped damage by the moths.



Thank You!

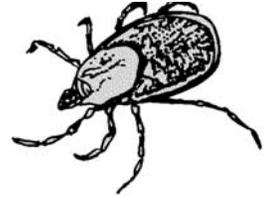
We want to say "Thank You!"

We appreciate your business and support, and the many referrals that come our way each year because of our happy customers.

***We wish each of you Peace, Joy,
Good Health, and Prosperity
throughout the new year!***

A New Tick is Spreading

In the spring we talked about a new tick, called the **longhorned tick** (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*), that is native to Asia but had been found for the first time in New Jersey the previous summer. Everyone had hoped the tick infestation was eradicated, and that it hadn't spread.



Unfortunately, some of the ticks somehow escaped the treatments, and they were found again this summer on the same property. In addition, awareness of the tick has greatly increased around the country. It has been sighted this year in two other counties in New Jersey, as well as locations in New York, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and even Arkansas.

Most of these other tick infestations were probably not from the original New Jersey infestation. It is still unclear if these are all isolated and small infestations, or the tick is more widespread than anyone thought.

This tick is a very serious pest of livestock in other parts of the world where it occurs, but it will also feed on pets, wild animals, and humans as well. It is an aggressive biter. Although it does not appear to be carrying any diseases so far here, in other parts of the world it carries some very serious pathogens.

Continue to take steps to protect yourselves, your children, and your pets from ticks, and report any unusual ticks you find.

Bees Stopped During Solar Eclipse



Surprisingly, the total solar eclipse in August of 2017 was the first time bee activity has ever been studied during a solar eclipse. Scientists, together with "citizen-scientists" (such as teachers, students, and enthusiasts) set up 16 acoustic monitoring stations with microphones in three states along the path of solar totality.

Can you guess what happened? Bees continued to fly even during the partial eclipse phase, but all bee activity stopped during total eclipse. It was the same at every monitoring station.

The next total eclipse in the U.S. will come in 2024. There is so much still to discover!

Hurricane Brings Giant Mosquitoes

Just two weeks after Hurricane Florence hit North Carolina on September 14, huge mosquitoes started to emerge and bite people. These are *Psorophora ciliata*, also called "gallinippers." These mosquitoes are two to three times larger than other mosquitoes, and they can easily bite right through most clothing.

While they are found throughout the eastern U.S., they are not very common until after a flood. These mosquitoes lay eggs in low grassy areas, and the eggs may lay dormant for years until the area floods, when millions quickly hatch and develop into adult biting mosquitoes.

Fortunately, gallinippers don't carry any human diseases, but their bites are nasty, and painful.

