

PestGazette

Brought to you by **Leaf Pest Control**



Pesky House Flies

► If you are noticing house flies in and around your home, don't hesitate to call us right away. These pests develop very quickly, especially in warm and humid conditions, and can reach adulthood in a little over a week. Adults typically only live between 2 and 4 weeks, however, 2 weeks of a fly buzzing around the kitchen can seem like an eternity. And just so you don't think that after a month the flies will be gone, know that there can be 10 to 12 generations a year! All that adds up to a major problem if it isn't addressed head on from the start. Let us handle the dirty work and rid your house of flies this summer. □



Pavement Ants

Pavement ants commonly invade and infest homes. These ants get their name because they often will nest around the edges or cracks of pavement, sidewalks, under concrete slabs, driveways and foundations but will occasionally come indoors. They will forage for food indoors and can come inside in large numbers in search of garbage and moisture. Pavement ants will make volcano-like mounds around pavement and other areas where they nest in the soil and their colonies can get very large, numbering in the thousands of individual ants. You may also see these ants swarming, where the reproductive winged ants emerge from the colony in large numbers in search of mates and new areas to colonize. Swarming usually doesn't occur for an extremely long time and is typically over in a few days or a week. Even if these ants haven't completely invaded or began to nest in a home, they will sometimes create trails and carry food from a home indoors back to their colonies outdoors and have even been found to forage up to 30 feet from their colony. Be sure to give us a call if you are finding pest ants around your home, so we can inspect and take care of any pavement ants lurking around your concrete structures! □

Inspect your Home During the Summer for Pest Problems

Learning the key signs of common summer pests around the home can help you prevent pests from making your house their vacation home. Do a "walk about" around your home's exterior perimeter, paying special note to the foundation but don't forget to look up around the roof fascia and soffit, where gaps may allow pest entry.

The eaves of a home are a common place where wasps will begin to build nests. Search for nests with an upside-down umbrella appearance, containing many individual "honey-comb" shaped cells. These nests are created by paper wasps that can be dangerous and sting if disturbed.

When inspecting your foundation be sure to look for termite evidence. Inspect closely for any mud tubes that termites use to tunnel into your home and feed on wood. You may also see swarming termites as another clue to termite presence. Finding small, translucent wings of termite warms in spider webs, windowsills or anywhere else around your home ►

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PESKY HOUSE FLIES



House flies are the most-common structure infesting fly in North America and are distributed throughout the world. House flies are incredibly adept fliers and can travel multiple miles per day. One fly was found 20 miles away from where it was first tracked!

House flies have sponging mouthparts and secrete saliva with digestive enzymes onto food to liquefy it, which allows them to sponge it up. House flies are usually viewed as annoying but basically benign pests that are just a fact of life in the summertime. The constant flying and buzzing is a major nuisance, but far from the only problem they cause. In fact, the more you know about them the less forgiving of their presence you will be.

House flies literally breed in filth and prefer decaying organic matter containing moisture like manure, decaying meat, garbage containers, grass clippings, and composted fruits and vegetables. If that wasn't bad enough, house flies are highly mobile and can quickly move from a bacteria infested

egg-laying site to the hamburger you're about to eat. House flies are known to mechanically transmit a host of nasty pathogens by doing that very thing. Fly 'feet' are quite sticky, and they bring traces of where they just were with them. There are a wide range of possible pathogens transferred including viruses, bacteria (like E. coli), fungi, and other harmful micro-organisms. House flies clearly pose more risk than mere annoyance! ▶



Inspect your Home During the Summer for Pest Problems!

▶ is potentially a sign that termites are in your area. The sooner that termite activity is detected, the greater the chances are of minimizing costly damage to your home.

Improper drainage around the foundation of a structure can result in standing water which can be attractive to many different pests. Mosquitoes are especially troublesome in locations where manmade pools of standing water are present. Some species, like the Asian tiger mosquito, specialize in locating and identifying temporary breeding locations and can deposit eggs in water sources as small as a bottle cap. The adult mosquito will lay its eggs in stagnant water like bird baths, clogged gutters, unused flowerpots, and other containers in the backyard. The larvae develop rapidly, and breeding populations of these daytime biting mosquitoes can become established on a property very quickly.

There are some simple steps that you can take on the exterior of the structure that will help to reduce the likelihood of pests invading. Removing and raking old leaves that have collected against the foundation of your home, under the deck, and inside the window wells will eliminate potential hiding and feeding places for many occasional invaders like millipedes, ants, sowbugs, and beetles.

Weeds around the foundation of the house can provide access to the building, hide evidence of infestation and trap moisture. Even though it might not be time to mow the entire lawn, the weeds adjacent to the foundation may need to be trimmed to eliminate this pest friendly environment. Vegetation next to the foundation can also make it difficult for termite inspectors to get a close look at the foundation wall, which is primary access point for termites to enter a structure.

It might go without saying, but any debris that is lying in the yard can become a harborage area for insects like ants, crickets, sowbugs, and even rodents. Rats will often dig burrows beneath piles of debris because it provides shelter from predators. Firewood and brush piles should be relocated as far from the structure as practical. Ants like odorous house ants and acrobat ants will often nest beneath pieces of wood or other discarded items. If you think you have any evidence of these common summer pests, give us a call to thoroughly inspect your home and remedy any underlying pest issues. □