

Bed Bugs Are Spreading

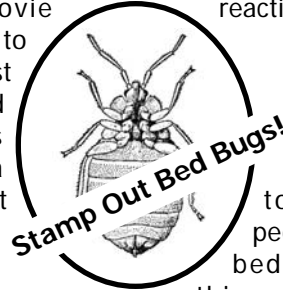
Across the country, the bed bug problem continues to increase. The situation in New York City is one example of what is happening in some areas.

A new Daily News-Marist poll revealed that *one person in 10* in New York City has had bed bugs in their homes—twice as many as last year. Put another way, the poll suggests that 800,000 people in the city have had these bloodsuckers crawling around in their sheets!

It's not just homes that are infested, but people are reporting bed bugs in their workplace too. They've even been discovered recently in places like upscale clothing stores, health clubs,

judge's chambers, and movie theaters. The number of calls to the city's hotline shot up 33% last year. The city recently provided \$500,000 in anti-bed bug funds and is considering naming a special bed bug "czar" to combat this modern-day plague.

Part of the reason for the rapid spread of bed bugs in New York, and everywhere, is that these bugs can easily "hitchhike" on people's clothes, in gym bags, pocketbooks, etc., without a person knowing they are there. Often the first indications of an infestation are welts or bite marks, but about 20% of us don't show any



reaction to bed bug bites.

Bed bug control is time-consuming and requires a thorough knowledge of these pests, as well as the proper materials to control them. Some people have tried to control bed bugs themselves, but this never works. Don't wait while the bugs spread to other rooms and your friends—call us to do it right.

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Dense landscaping flush with the ground provides shelter for wandering rats, mice, and other rodents. Pruning out the lowest branches of shrubs and trees eliminates these hiding places and helps reduce "rodent curb appeal." A good height to clear is up to about 18 inches off the ground.

Asian Lady Beetles

Most of us grew up loving those brightly colored ladybugs, also called lady beetles. Then a new ladybug species arrived and started invading homes in the fall—suddenly the pretty little beneficial bug became a really nasty household pest!



Asian Lady Beetle

Just the bugs crawling around indoors on warm days during the fall, winter, and spring are enough of a nuisance, but if you've ever had an infestation of Asian lady beetles, you know that is just part of the problem. These beetles have a foul smell, plus they can stain surfaces with their orange-colored 'blood' when they are squashed.

Even worse, some people suffer allergic reactions when their homes are infested by these beetles.

Asian lady beetles can be kept out of a home with our special treatment on the outside walls of your home in late summer or early fall, before they begin invading. These beetles seek a place to spend the winter about five days after a dramatic drop in autumn temperatures.

The Asian lady beetle was brought to this country several times, starting as early as 1916, to help control crop pests. They indeed have voracious appetite for aphids and many other pests of crops. (Although they are a problem for grape growers because their foul smell taints the flavor of the wine.) But the problem for homeowners comes when these beetles look for places to spend the winter, and unlike other lady beetles, the inside of a home is the preferred place for this invading insect.

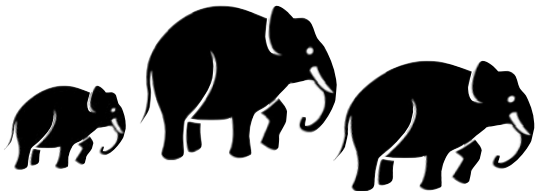


Elephants Remember Bees

A bee's stinger cannot penetrate most areas of an elephant's tough hide, but it can penetrate around the eyes where the skin is much thinner, and on the inside of an elephant's sensitive trunk. Stings in these areas apparently are very painful and an experience an elephant remembers.

New research shows elephants make a specific rumbling sound, or alarm call, to warn their fellow herd members of imminent danger when bees are discovered. When this rumbling sound is recorded and played to other groups of elephants, it causes them to respond with similar alarm. Even a recording of buzzing bees elicits the elephant's alarm call.

Some farmers in Africa have begun using "beehive fences" to keep elephants out of areas where crops are growing. These fences are composed of beehives strung on wires. When elephants try to push through the wires, it shakes the hives violently and the bees swarm out and sting the elephants. The elephants quickly learn to avoid areas protected by the fences. Farmers like these fences because the hives also produce honey and other products, which can be harvested and sold.



Help Prevent Rabies!

September 28 is World Rabies Day, a day to raise awareness about rabies and enhance prevention and control methods. Before 1960, rabies was transferred to humans primarily by infected domestic animals, especially rabid dogs. Because of vaccination programs for domestic animals, today 93% of all rabies cases in humans come from contact with wild animals, especially raccoons, bats, skunks, and foxes. Rabies cases among cats are increasing, and now cats are four times more likely to become infected than dogs. Rabies is present in every state except Hawaii.

We encourage you to learn more about this preventable but deadly disease by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/worldrabiesday/>.



Your Questions Answered

Q. Are bird and bat droppings a health hazard?

A. Yes! They can contain a number of disease-causing organisms. Histoplasmosis, the most common disease associated with bird and bat droppings, is caused by inhaling spores of the fungus *Histoplasma capsulatum*. Most infections cause only minor influenza-like symptoms, but in unusual cases it has killed people.

People inhale the fungal spores when they disturb an accumulation of bird and bat droppings where the fungus has been growing. Interestingly, the fungus is NOT found in fresh bird droppings—apparently because the droppings are too acidic for the fungus. It is more likely to start growing where there has been a large infestation of birds for several years, either indoors or outdoors.

The fungus can also grow in bat roosts, and unlike birds, in piles of fresh bat droppings.



Rodents Can Cause Fires

Rodents often amass piles of hoarded food that they consume later. These stashes can become fire hazards as well as a food source for insect pests.

Recently a fire damaged the kitchen of a home having a problem with mice in New Hampshire. Upon closer inspection, fire inspectors found



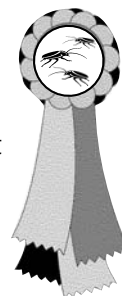
the cause of the fire—a rodent had stashed a pile of dog food around the dishwasher's heating element, pump and fan. The hoarded food prevented the dishwasher from ventilating properly.

Although dishwasher fires are uncommon, experts estimate that about half of all structure fires of "undetermined origin" are caused by invading rats and mice. This is due to their habits of hoarding food, building nests of easily flammable materials, and gnawing on almost anything, including electrical wires.

"The Best Food is Over Here!"

New research has shown that cockroaches behave like mini-restaurant critics, sharing recommendations about the best places to eat. It is well known that cockroaches spend most of their time in groups. In fact, there is a pheromone (a chemical scent) in their droppings that attracts other roaches. But even where there are no roach droppings, roaches will tend to group together and eat from one piece of food more than another identical piece. Scientists believe there may be a scent either in their saliva or on the outside of their bodies that tells other roaches, "This is a good place to eat."

If scientists can identify this substance, it could be used to make traps and baits more attractive.



ROACH SEAL OF APPROVAL