PRO-TECH Pest Gazette
Extermination Services, Inc.

Fully Licensed
• Commercial
• Industrial
• Residential

SPRING 2008

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Spring Semi-Annual Residual Service

Warm weather is on its way and it's time for your semi-annual residual service. This service is usually scheduled by computer, on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis. When the computer tells us it is time to go to your house, we go. If you have a special requirement, wish to be home at the time of treatment, need to provide access to a locked area or the interior of your home or business, please contact us to schedule an appointment.

This semi-annual service includes treatment of the foundation, accessible eaves, overhangs and shutters. We also treat temporary structures including landscape timbers, mailbox posts, deck posts and railings etc.

Our semi-annual residual service does not include pest activity within bushes, trees, holes in the ground or any other landscape elements. These issues can be addressed during the season, but are not part of our semi-annual residual treatment as it is not completely effective in preventing infestations in these natural landscape elements.

Effective treatment of pests in bushes, holes, stone walls, etc. requires specialized treatments. Please draw the technician's attention to these infestations at the time of the treatment for an assessment of how they might best be addressed. In some cases, no additional charges may be necessary, but we cannot guarantee the effectiveness of treatment in these exposed sights and cannot be held responsible for callbacks or other unavoidable issues.

As always, if you can give us advanced warning of additional treatment areas and concerns before we arrive for treatment we can be better prepared to deal with them when we arrive.

Changes in Billing Terms

Recently we have found it necessary to change our billing terms. In the past we have handled past due accounts ourselves, but the administrative complications are a significant drain on our resources. Therefore we have hired a collection agency to help us collect accounts that are more than 90 days past due.

Our new payment terms are: Net 30 days; after 30 days there is a $10 statement fee per month; after 90 days, all balances are transferred to a professional collection company. All costs of collection and statement fees will be the responsibility of the customer in default. Terms will also shortly be available on Protechpestcontrol.com.

Thank you.
The Pro-Tech Team.

Helpful Hints:

Pest infestations occur because of favorable habitats existing in and close to your home. Eliminating these favorable habitats can prevent most common infestations and save you a lot of trouble and money. Here are a few helpful hints to make your home less attractive to pests.

1. Store firewood off the ground and away from the structure. Firewood is a frequent home for carpenter ants, termites, mice, spiders and snakes. Carpenter ants will forage up to 100 yards away from their nests for food, so further is always better.

2. Trim all trees and bushes away from the house to prevent contact with the structure. This prevents insects from bypassing the foundation treatment by using the vegetation as a bridge.

3. Avoid organic mulches around the foundation of the home and remove dead stumps and other rotting matter from within 50 feet of the home.

4. Correct any moisture problems in the house such as leaky roofs, chimney flashing, plumbing leaks, blocked gutters and poorly ventilated attics. Insects love moist wood.

5. Spiders are drawn to locations that offer good hunting for other insects, by switching to yellow insect lights and discouraging insects in and around your house, it becomes a less inviting environment for spiders.

6. By regularly removing spider webs from your house, basement and attic, you make it difficult for spiders to feed themselves and prevent reproduction.

7. Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left out of doors. Drainage holes that are located on the sides collect enough water for mosquitoes to breed in.

8. Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property. Mosquitoes will develop in any puddle that lasts more than 4 days.

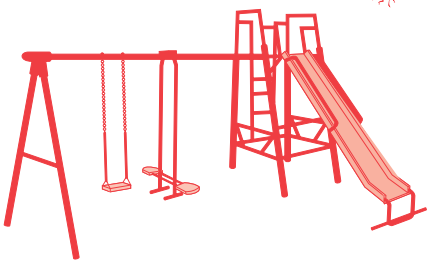
Published quarterly by Pro-Tech Extermination Services, Inc., Worcester, MA. Writing, editing and design by Priestley Marketing Group, Boylston, MA, www.priestleycom.net.

Extra Services and Indoor Treatment

Sometimes you need a little more than our routine treatment to keep your pest problems under control. We can treat almost any structure on your property at low additional cost. Structures such as detached garages, swing sets, sheds, pool-houses, barns and other additional structures. You can call to tell us in advance of our semi-annual residual treatment visit, or let us know when we get there. Higher charges may apply if we need to return to your site at a later date.

The semi-annual residual treatment is an outside service, however all indoor services for pests covered in the semi-annual program are free of charge. Most houses require very minimal treatment; whether it is a light baseboard spray along the ground floor, or a quick crack and crevice treatment in a certain bathroom. Just let us know where you tend to notice additional pests and we'll see to it at the same time as our outdoor treatment.

Again, please let us know about these additional treatment needs, in advance if possible, so we can limit return trips which might incur extra charges.



Do It Yourself – or Not

In today's economy it is tempting to save a little money by investing a little time and Doing It Yourself (DIY), but in the case of pest management, this may be penny wise and pound foolish. Most do-it-yourself products for pest control simply are not as effective as those available to professionals because state licensing rules prevent the sale of the most highly effective materials to non-licensed people. Additionally, proper pest control requires comprehensive knowledge of the threats and the signs of those threats in the region as well as the precautions and hazards associated with administering the treatment.

To DIY or not to DIY, that is the question

Most do-it-yourself products for pest control simply are not as effective as those available to professionals' specialized methods of dealing with them. Developing this knowledge yourself is time consuming and error prone, and again, the products needed to address them may not be available to consumers. You also need to monitor the problem regularly, and we all know how hard that is to remember.

Professional pest control technicians know what to look for and how to deal with it effectively and without risk to you or your pets. And, since this is our business, we won't forget the schedule; you know your most important investment will be protected. So get with a program and stick with it. It may be a little more expensive up front, but down the road you'll save many times the cost in peace of mind and time, allowing you to do the things you enjoy.

Pest Profile - the Indian Meal Moth.

This pest has become more prevalent over the past couple of seasons. It can be eliminated by thorough cleaning if identified quickly. However it is often mis- identified and ignored until the moth has become a severely entrenched and bothersome problem.

INDIAN MEAL MOTH

SIZE: About 3/8 inch (10mm) long at rest; wing spread is about 5/8 inch (14mm).

COLOR: Bronze-colored wings.

DESCRIPTION: When at rest the wings are folded together along the line of the body. The front half of the forewings is a grayish-white color, and the lower half is a rusty red-brown color.

HABITAT: The adult moths usually fly at night and lay eggs on food such as grain, dried food, and especially pet food.

LIFE CYCLE: The life cycle and habits of this pantry pest is similar to other moths infesting stored products. Eggs are laid on or near the food. A female moth may deposit from 40 to 350 eggs. After hatching, the small caterpillars begin spinning silken threads in the infested food material. They feed for about two weeks before becoming full grown. They crawl up to the surface of the food material or often up walls and pupate within a cocoon. The adult emerges in about 30 days. The entire cycle requires about six weeks and there are from 4-6 generations per year.

TYPE OF DAMAGE: The Indian meal moth is one of the most common and troublesome of the moths infesting stored products. The caterpillar stage of this insect will feed on a variety of grains, meal, breakfast foods, dried nuts, seeds, chocolate, powdered milk, and especially dry pet foods. Infested material may be more or less webbed together. Small two-colored moths (gray and reddish-brown) will also be seen flying about the infested area.

CONTROL: Control of this pest begins with the location of the infested food. A thorough clean up, using a vacuum cleaner to get into the cracks and crevices, will control this pest.

INTERESTING FACTS: Adults fly in a zigzag fashion if disturbed during the day. Their lifespan is one to two weeks.

If you suspect an Indian Meal Moth infestation in your home or business, give us a call and schedule an inspection.

Wanted Dead not Alive.

What are the most unwanted pests in our region today? The specifics vary depending upon your neighborhood, the businesses and buildings in the area, and other individual situations, but from our experience the worst offenders are listed below. Whenever possible, we have listed specific pests...the carpenter ant rather than just "ants," the house fly rather than just "flies." Some pests, such as with subterranean termites and fruit flies, which include a number of closely-related species, are listed generally.

1. **Carpenter ant.**
2. **Bedbug.**
3. **Fruit fly.**
4. **German cockroach**
5. **House fly**
6. **House mouse**
7. **Indian meal moth**
8. **Pharaoh/pavement ant**
9. **Subterranean termite**
10. **Yellow jacket**

If you suspect an infestation of any of these pests, please give us a call to schedule an inspection and work out an appropriate treatment program.

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