

Extermination Services, Inc.

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## Reducing Mosquito Annoyance Around the Home

With spring and summer approaching, mosquitoes will soon be returning. There are some things you can do to reduce the amount of mosquitoes patrolling your yard during the evening.

The northern house mosquito, *Culex pipiens*, is the most common mosquito found in urban and sub-urban areas. This mosquito will lay its eggs in virtually any receptacle containing water rich in decomposing organic material. Breeding habitats around the home include

discarded tires; unwashed bird baths; clogged rain gutters; plastic wading pools and anywhere water is allowed to stagnate. Mosquitoes will not lay their eggs if the water is too clear. Grass clippings, dead leaves and algae in the water, however, produce an attractive habitat. The entire life cycle from egg to adult can be completed in less than 10 days during periods of favorable temperatures.

Mosquitoes are expert fliers, but flight expends energy. Mosquitoes obtain energy by feeding on flower

nectar, converting the sugar from nectar as a source of fuel. Both male and female mosquitoes feed regularly on flowers but females require blood to produce fertile eggs. As a result, a female mosquito must find a host and blood-feed before she can lay her eggs. Male mosquitoes do not lay eggs and, therefore, do not feed on blood.

Most of the mosquitoes that emerge in the wild never have contact with humans and obtain blood from the most common animals in their habitats. Some species prefer birds as blood-meal hosts and rarely function as pests of humans. Others accept a wide range of animal hosts, including humans, becoming pests whenever they occur in numbers where humans frequent. The mosquito species that breed around the home are considered "domestic species" and rarely range far from

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## Spring is in the Air



Spring is around the corner and we'll soon be coming by for your semi-annual exterior service.\*

Why semi-annual service?

Because it's easier to prevent pests from getting in than it is to get them out once they've gotten in. Our semi-annual service lays down a barrier against infestation and includes foundation treatment as well as eave and overhang residual treatments to repel bees and wasps. While usually unnecessary, we also offer inside treatment for our semi-annual customers, upon request, at no additional cost. Treatment of

nearby trees and shrubs, sheds, pools and pool houses at a discounted fee are optional with semi-annual service.

Current termite infestations, birds, bats, flies and other wildlife are not covered by the semi-annual maintenance service, but can be controlled at additional cost.


The semi-annual service begins in late March or early April and is dependant upon the weather; it is followed by a second service in late July or early August.

\* Remember, payments sent out within 7 days of service receive a \$3.00 discount.



## 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.

### Reducing Mosquito Annoyance – continued from page 1

human habitations. All accept humans as a blood-meal host, many will enter houses to feed and most are regarded as significant pests by the average homeowner.

To reduce your exposure to these pests, eliminate standing water near your home. Keep birdbath and wading pool water fresh, remove old tires and other trash that can catch water. Clear your gutters and ensure that ponds and water features on your property are kept flowing. As always, please feel free to call us for help or information.

Source: [www.epa.gov.com](http://www.epa.gov.com)

[protechpest-control.com](http://protechpest-control.com)

Protech Pest Control uses the latest technologies and methods to address your pest control issues, now we are using the latest communication technologies to stay in touch with you. Protech Pest Control is now on the web! Visit us at: [www.protechpestcontrol.com](http://www.protechpestcontrol.com) for information on common pests, control methods and for archived back issues of our newsletter. **Check it out.**

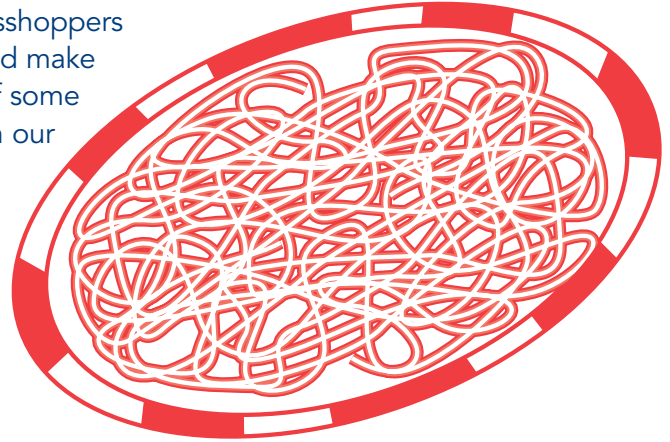
# Insects in your food

New statistics show that every American unknowingly eats about 1 1/2 pounds of insects a year. That's when you count up all the insects like aphids and caterpillars hidden in broccoli, lettuce, and other fresh foods, plus the bugs ground up in processed foods in everything from cornflakes to strawberry jam to spaghetti sauce.

Actually, we're none the worse for eating these insects. As long as the insects are clean and cooked, they don't harm us. As some people like to point out, insects are extremely

high in protein (dried grasshoppers are up to 60% protein) and make up a significant portion of some cultures' diets, so some in our food may actually make it more nutritious.

People who knowingly eat insects have different descriptions of how they taste. Many insects, once cooked, taste vaguely of chicken, or even their distant relatives, shrimp and lobster. They may have a nutty or crispy texture. Cooked tarantulas have been described as "greasy, but good."

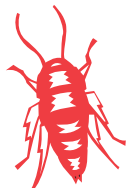


– Some information sourced from [www.stanleypestcontrol.com](http://www.stanleypestcontrol.com)

## Are Pests Increasing?

It seems like the never-ending battle against pests becomes fiercer every year. We increasingly hear about pests on the news, and they are constantly invading our homes and businesses. What is happening?

For one thing, we are battling a far greater variety of pests today than ever before. In fact, most of our worst pest species did not come from this country. Pests like the common house fly, house mouse, roof and Norway rats, and the American, German, and Oriental cockroaches, to name a few, all came from other countries. There are now well over 1,700



species of foreign pests thriving in this country, mainly due to the constant movement of people and goods between countries and continents.

As if that weren't bad enough, we often inadvertently promote pest problems. For instance, sanitation measures have generally improved, thus reducing pest numbers, but recycling has created entirely new problems by providing pests with enticing nutritious liquids left in bottles and cans. Central heating keeps us warm during the winter, but it has also allowed termites to thrive in areas where they weren't previously a problem. Pests will take advantage of any food, water or

suitable shelter we provide them.

And what about the potential for global warming we hear about in the news? Just a couple of degrees increase in temperature would mean longer pest seasons, increased winter survival of pests, and a whole new group of pests.

What does this mean for you? It means that a regular pest control maintenance and service program is that much more important. Be sure to call us and let us know about any new pests that you discover in your home so we can help you control and eliminate them.

– Some information sourced from [www.stanleypestcontrol.com](http://www.stanleypestcontrol.com)

# Trivia – Challenge Yourself and Friends with These!

- 1 How much damage is done to property in the U.S. by rats and mice in one day?
- 2 What insect in Sweden has an entire museum devoted to it?
- 3 What is the world population of ants?
- 4 How do an insect's tiny wings enable it to fly?

## *Answers to Pest Trivia!*

1. About \$2500000 or nearly one billion dollars a year in the U.S.
2. Mosquitoes. The Sjaunja Mosquito Museum at the Sjaunjamyren (Sjaunja Marsh) in the municipality of Gällivarein. For more information, visit the museum website:  
<http://www5.gellivare.se/myggmuseum/e/index.htm>
3. At any given moment there are 10 million billion ants. They weigh over 2 billion pounds and constitute 10% of the entire animal biomass on dry land.
4. An airplane and an insect use vastly different strategies to lift their bodies into the air. An insect's wings, as reported in a recent issue of the journal, "Nature," create their lift by producing a whirling cylinder of air above the insect, lifting their body into the air like a miniature tornado. An airplane's wings lift the plane due to the flow of air over the wing. This creates lower air pressure above the wings which lifts the plane.