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McKINZIE PEST CONTROL
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Professional Pest Control Benefits Environment



We are proud that our ongoing professional training enables us to be better guardians of our environment than ever before.

Professional pest control has come a long way from the post World War II days of spraying with DDT to eliminate pests. At that time, those "miracle" chemicals gave people a new freedom from pests and insect-transmitted diseases, but little was known about their potential dangers to humans and wildlife. What so many of us strongly believe today—that we are each responsible for taking care of the earth and the environment—few people even considered.

How far we have come! Like a doctor carefully administering medicines, professional pest management today means better control of pests using far less product. And, there are an increasing number of more environmentally friendly insecticides available to us. These products generally require more knowledge and training to use them. They also take more time to apply and use as part of an overall integrated program, but the results in terms of safety and effectiveness are worth it.

The end result is that we can better protect your individual environment—the home and workplace—from pests and the diseases they carry. In many ways, we make your environment a healthier, safer place!

It's a win-win situation. This is good for all of us, and it's good for this planet we call home.

Introducing Sentricon® with ESP™ Technology

McKinzie Pest Control in Manhattan and Emporia is pleased to introduce the Sentricon System with ESP Technology, the most technologically advanced termite control program available. It is the same Sentricon System that you are accustomed to but with new enhancements that will enable us to monitor your termite stations electronically.

All new and existing Sentricon Systems will include this new and improved technology. These enhancements will more accurately alert our technicians to the presence of termites. In addition, by reducing station disruption, termites are more likely to enter the stations. This allows bait to be introduced at an earlier date and the end result is faster detection and elimination of termites.

We believe it is important for us to provide the most professional, up to date service available. By doing so, we add value to the services we provide, just as the Sentricon System adds value to your property.

New Answers to Termite Questions

Research on termites has greatly accelerated in recent years, allowing us to better understand and control them. We thought you might be interested in a few aspects of termites that we have learned in the past decade.

When are termites most active?

Although termites are active all year, they tend to be more active in their search for new food sources in the spring and early summer, with another, smaller peak of activity in the fall. They are most active when the soil is moist and the air temperature is moderate.

How do termites search for new food sources?

Termites have poor eyesight and do not know they are near wood until they practically bump into it. But they do use environmental clues to help direct their search. These especially include odors emitted by decaying



wood, and gradients in soil moisture.

Termites tunnel to new food sources. Tunnel branches go out somewhat like the spokes

of a wheel in what might seem like a random search, but is in fact extremely efficient at finding new food sources. They also have a tendency to follow along objects like roots, pipes, and cracks, to find new food sources.

What type of wood do termites prefer?

No wood is immune to termite attack if there is limited food, but they do show strong preferences. They prefer moist over dry wood, fungus-decayed wood over sound wood, softwoods over hardwoods, and the softer sapwood over heartwood. They often, but not always, avoid cedar, cypress, and redwood.

New Findings on Roaches & Allergens



The January issue of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* reports on part two of a study on reducing cockroach allergens in urban residences.

In part one, cockroach allergen levels were reduced up to 93% in kitchens by a combination of cockroach control, professional cleaning, and resident education.

In part two, the study found that professional cockroach control, all by itself, reduced cockroach allergens to basically the same low levels. This is significant because it means that professional cleaning and education, both expensive, do not reduce allergen levels any further than professional cockroach control alone.

Children in the inner-city are especially likely to have allergies, and studies have found that almost 40% of the children in inner-city homes have an allergic response to cockroaches.

Home Explodes!



Recently a home in San Diego, California, exploded when the family tried to control the

cockroaches and rats inside by setting off 19 "bug bombs." The propellant in this kind of aerosol is highly flammable, and probably was ignited by the pilot light in a wall heater.

Fortunately, no one was hurt because the family had just left the house. Damage was estimated in excess of \$150,000, and the home was left completely uninhabitable.

The sad thing is that these kinds of explosions happen all too frequently because homeowners aren't trained to use the aerosols properly. Ironically, bug bombs aren't even for rat control, and by themselves provide only partial or temporary relief from cockroaches.

Our treatment methods are much safer and more effective!

Your Questions Answered



Q. What are Alien Species?

A. Alien species are living organisms (primarily animals and plants) that invade a new geographical area and thrive in it, usually wreaking havoc with the native species in the area.

The alien is not always something ugly and vile—if you ask any Australian ecologist, they would say that fluffy, cute rabbits have caused the most problems. Rabbits were brought to Australia from England in 1859. Freed from the foxes and other predators that normally keep them in check, they thrived beyond all imagination, outcompeting many native animals and eating some native plants to the point of extinction.

Invasive alien species are considered one of the main threats to biodiversity on Earth.

As transportation around the world has accelerated, more pests have "hitchhiked" with us, spreading around the globe.

The worst alien species, on a global scale, are various kinds of rats. Rats have wiped out more native birds and other animals than any other alien species. Red fire ants, zebra mussels, water hyacinths, brown tree snakes, and Nile perch are other alien species that have been especially damaging to native ecosystems globally.

Rats Cause School Cafeteria Shutdown

Cafeterias in 13 Chicago schools were closed in January when inspectors found rat and mouse droppings in them. At the same time, officials ordered a top-to-bottom cleaning of all 600 Chicago public schools. The cleaning alone cost almost \$4 million, and students received cold breakfasts and lunches from outside vendors during the process.

Fortunately, school officials stated that no evidence of food contamination had been found. The cleaning came on the heels of a similar rodent crackdown 16 months earlier.



Pest Trivia

CHALLENGE YOURSELF AND FRIENDS WITH THESE!

1. How many descendants can a female cockroach leave behind in one year?
2. What is the fine for collecting protected beetles in South Africa?
3. Why do people often get several flea bites in a row?
4. How long does it take for a tarantula to dissolve a small mouse?

ANSWERS TO PEST TRIVIA:

1. It depends on the kind of cockroach. In one year under optimum conditions, an Oriental cockroach ("water bug") can leave behind 200 descendants, but a single

female German cockroach, who is much faster at reproducing, will have more than 35,000 descendants!

2. A South African court in February fined four Germans \$18,000 for capturing 211 rare Cape stag beetles. The beetles are highly prized by collectors, but are listed as endangered under South African law.

3. Some researchers believe that dog and cat fleas find humans somewhat distasteful, so they attempt to feed several times in a row before giving up. In contrast, the much less common flea called the "human flea" typically bites us only once at a time.

4. 1½ days.