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Rats & Mice Are Moving Indoors

Whether it's *EEK!*, *UGH!!*, or *YUCK!!!*, most of us have a natural revulsion for mice and rats. These common pests appear indoors randomly throughout the year. But it's during the fall and winter, when it's cooler outdoors and food is scarcer, that we see the number of invading mice and rats dramatically increase.

Mice and rats are everywhere outdoors, but their populations explode where food is easily available, including spilled grain below bird feeders, exposed

garbage, fallen fruits or nuts, and other foods. Indoors, rodents tend to be omnivorous, eating or nibbling on most any food available, although cereals and grains are among the foods they will consume regularly. They develop food preferences; mice in offices show a preference for chocolate and snack items, presumably because these are the



foods they find there.

Keep in mind that mice and rats multiply fastest when they have plenty of food, water, and shelter. For instance, mice give birth to 2-13 young every 30-50 days. It's been shown that well-fed and supplied mice have the largest litters, and more often. So as much as possible, it's always important to prevent mice and rats from having access to food, water, and shelter.

We are the area experts at controlling these common rodent pests. If you, or someone you know, have mice or rats, call us to control them.

Steve McKinzie Selected to Serve on the Board of Directors for the Friends of the KSU Insect Zoo

Steve McKinzie, President of McKinzie Pest Control, has recently been selected as a member of the Board of Directors for the recently formed *Friends Of the Insect Zoo* (FOIZ) at Kansas State University.

The FOIZ has been developed in order to help raise funds in support of educational programming, and promoting community awareness of the Insect Zoo at Kansas State University. All funds will be used for acquisition of new insects and educational materials, as well as capital improvements and promotion of Insect Zoo programs.

"I am honored to have been selected to serve on the Board of

Directors for the Friends of the Insect Zoo, Steve McKinzie said. McKinzie Pest Control has been proud to be a financial sponsor of special exhibits in the Insect Zoo since it began. It is a special place and a wonderful environment for learning about insects, their biology and the environment. If you haven't been to the Insect Zoo, and you're visiting Manhattan, take some time and see some of the weirdest, biggest 'bugs' you've ever seen! It's a great place!"

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Place weather stripping on the bottom, side, and top of all outside doors to help reduce the number of pests that enter through these cracks. This, along with our regular treatments, will help keep pests out that are attempting to invade your home.



Unusual Spider Webs Sighted

At Lake Tawakoni State Park, about 50 miles east of Dallas, Texas, a monstrous network of sheet-like webs covering several acres was spun over trees and shrubs in August. Although phenomena like this have been sighted in tropical rain forests, it is almost unheard of in this country.



Normally, giant patchworks of webs are spun only by spiders that are known to live in groups. But most of the spiders caught in the Texas webs are long-jawed spiders, which are not social and do not normally build communal webs. Scientists now believe the massive webs are an unusual example of several spider species working together to build webs that catch more prey. Let's hope these spiders don't learn too much from this experience!

Roaches Don't Like Mornings

A recent university study found that a cockroach's ability to learn is greatly affected by the time of day. In a two-year study, pests were taught to associate peppermint, a scent they normally don't like, with food. Test results show that roaches are incapable of remembering what they learn in the morning, but can remember for several days what they learn during the evening and at night, when they are normally more active.

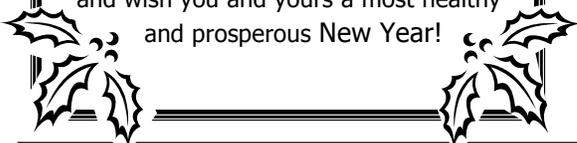


Thank You!

We want to take this opportunity to thank both our long-term and new customers for allowing us to help protect your health and property through professional pest management. It's our pleasure and privilege to serve you.

We also want to say "thank you!" to those of you who have referred other customers to us this year. We are deeply grateful for your trust and confidence.

We hope your holidays are filled with joy, and wish you and yours a most healthy and prosperous New Year!



Another Island Targeted for Rat Removal



"Rat Island", an island in Alaska's Aleutian island chain, was so named after it became overrun with rats from the shipwreck of a Japanese sailing ship in 1780. There are no humans living on the island, but the wild birds that nest there are being devastated by the rats.

Plans are currently being drawn up by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a sophisticated baiting program to wipe out the island's rats. This kind of program has proven successful on over 250 other remote, rat-infested islands around the world where rats had been decimating wildlife.

Rats are blamed for causing about half the extinctions of various species worldwide since the 1600s. Since the 1990s, Alaska has maintained a "rat-spill" program in which emergency responders prevent the spread of rats from shipwrecks. This program is considered vital, like their oil-spill contingency plans. In fact, wildlife biologists point out that the environmental damage created by the introduction of rats into some areas is even worse than that of a major oil spill.

More Pests Coming...

Many of our worst pests are not native to this country, but came from other parts of the world via ships and planes. As modern transportation has improved and travel between countries has increased, more pests are accidentally being introduced into the U.S.

Inspectors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are charged with finding and intercepting these pests at airports and shipyards, and they stop literally thousands of destructive pests from entering our country every year. According to the U.S. General Accounting Office, increased travel has multiplied the workload of these inspectors, making new pest invasions ever more likely.



If you go to another country, please don't bring back fruit or other items that may contain pests. And watch that you don't bring back bedbugs!

Ancient Beehives Discovered

In Israel, archaeologists have unearthed 30 intact beehives dating to around 900 B.C., approximately the period that King Solomon reigned. The hives are stacked in neat rows, three tiers high, in a room that would have contained some 100 hives total and been able to produce as much as half a ton of honey per year.

This is an extraordinary find, because it is the first time that actual hives have been discovered anywhere in the ancient Near East, and it indicates that early beekeeping was a much more highly developed industry than had been previously thought. The Bible uses the term "honey" 55 times; 16 times as part of the image of Israel being "the land of milk and honey." But it was commonly believed that the word "honey" usually referred to a type of honey produced from fruits such as dates and figs, partly because bee's honey is explicitly mentioned only twice. This discovery means that real honey from honeybees could have indeed been plentiful in "the land of milk and honey."

