

How to deal with Infestations
By Daniel Taylor



In this quick reference guide you will be given a quick and effective way to deal with any insect and rodent infestations you might find yourself with. An infestation can happen to anyone and it isn't dependant on how clean your home is. However there are a few things you can do to help prevent infestations occurring and to minimise the damage when they do happen. This guide will take you through everything you need to know and provide a helping hand when dealing with those tricky infestations. This book has everything you need to know so you can avoid having to call out an expensive exterminator.

Bed Bugs

Bed bugs can be hard to spot right up until you're dealing with a full blown infestation. Bed bugs are incredibly small and tend to only move about in the middle of the night. There are however some signs that you can look out for so that you can deal with the bed bugs before the infestation gets too bad. The first thing to look out for is small blood stains caused by the bites of the bed bugs. The waste and excrement of the bed bugs may be visible as small black specks on the sheet. The bed sheet is the most likely place to find evidence of bed bugs as they tend to spend most of their time feeding whilst we sleep.

It may be necessary to use a magnifying glass to try to spot the signs as they can often be so small that they are hard to see with the naked eye. Look out for any rust coloured stains as well as checking yourself for bites. These bites may seem like mosquito bites but they will generally be closer together so don't be fooled. You can also wait until it's dark outside then use a flashlight to check your bed and room for the bed bugs.

To properly remove a bed bug infestation you'll need to find out where they're hiding during the daytime. They will often hide in the crevices of sheets as well as inside mattresses so that they're not disturbed. They may even start to live inside your carpet so once you've found an infestation it's very important to deal with it quickly. The best way to do this is to hire an exterminator. They'll be able to work with you to deal with the infestation quickly and completely, so your home can be back to normal in no time.

Safe bug spray

There are so many different bug sprays on the market that it's impossible to say outright that bug spray is or isn't safe for your pets. Dogs and cats both suffer with fleas as well as ticks and mosquitoes can even transmit heartworm to your pets. These are all things that your pets need to be protected from but using certain bug sprays can be dangerous so this might not be the best way. There are some bug sprays on the market that are specifically made to be safe for use with animals. These tend to be the more natural, containing herbal ingredients, however their effectiveness is very varied.

Chemical bug sprays are a lot more effective but most come with very strict safety guidelines to ensure the product is used with care. These sprays can be very dangerous to your pets so make sure to consult with a vet before use. Consider using a bug repellent that can be used as a lotion rather than a spray. A spray can be inhaled by both you and your pets which will put nasty chemicals into your body where they can do much more harm,

One bug repellent that should definitely be avoided if you have pets is any products that contains DEET. This is one of the strongest bug sprays on the market but it can be very dangerous to dogs. DEET has been found to cause neurological disorders when inhaled by dogs. If you're planning on using DEET on yourself make sure to do it well away from your pets. Also consider again getting a lotion form to ensure your pets are kept properly safe.

The safest way to go is to ask your vet what insect repellent they suggest would be safest for your pets. Most vets now recommend a liquid repellent which is easily applies to the back of your animals neck. This is used regularly to maintain protection for your pets and is entirely harmless.

Flies

Flies can be a real annoyance during the summer months. They seem to work their way into your home however hard you try to stop them. Most people just put up with them, deciding that they can deal with irritation. There are however reasons to make the effort to deal with the fly problem. For one thing flies carry disease from one food source to another. That means if a fly has been feasting on some garbage or dog poo, they'll bring any germs and bacteria from there and into your home. Coupled with that is the fact that most people are disgusted by the idea of maggots, which are one of the earlier stages of a flies development. So unless you want maggots turning up in your home follow these tips to keep the flies out.

First of all you need to be careful with your garbage if you want to avoid a build-up of flies. Think about buying fully re-sealable containers for your garbage to be kept in. Also wash out your garbage bins on a regular basis as this will reduce the attraction for flies as well as getting rid of any fly eggs. Flies are attracted to any form of rotting food, so if you're planning to clean out your fridge, wait until the garbage men are due.

A large number of flies in one area is probably a sign that there's something rotting that you don't know about. Check behind appliances for any food waste that may have been dropped, you'll know what's attracting them when you find it. If you're dealing with a lot of flies but there's no one source for them you may find doing some work in your garden will help. Flies often lay eggs in amongst rotting plant matter, by weeding often and clearing up any plant debris you'll rob the flies of a place to breed. Hopefully these tips will help you deal with that pesky fly problem.

Flies are a natural part of life and you're bound to get a few in the house, especially when it's hot and you've got the windows open. However a few flies can quickly turn into an infestation unless you take measures to keep the fly population low. One of the easiest things you can do is to ensure your kitchen counters are properly scrubbed on a regular basis. This removes any residue that might be attracting the flies so that they have no sources of food and have to move on. Another way you can do this is to keep all of your fruit in sealed containers rather than leaving it out. Again this removes a potential food source so the flies have to move on.

One often forgotten attraction for fruit flies and other insects is the recycling. Small amounts of food are frequently left on cans and bottles and this will attract a huge amount of flies. Clean out all of your recycling thoroughly and keep your kitchen as clean as possible and hopefully this will force the flies to move on. As a preventative measure it's also a good idea to cover your windows with fly screens to stop insects from getting in to begin with.

Sometimes however hard you try you'll end up with a fly infestation and when this happens extreme measures are required. Fly paper is very effective at catching flies as it attracts them with a sweet smell, they then become stuck to the fly paper. This does result in dead flies hanging from sticky sheets around your kitchen. A more humane and less unpleasant method for fly removal can be achieved with just a few household items. First make a funnel from some paper and place this into the top of a jar, then place a piece of fruit in the jar. The flies will be attracted to the fruit and travel down the funnel, but they will find it hard to escape again. The flies can then be released outside.

Silver Fish

Silverfish also known as fish moths are a type of insect that move in a similar manner to fish. They're a greyish or greenish colour and are able to move with speed. The reason they enter your home is to benefit from the temperature, they're ideal environment is at around 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Silverfish are seen by many as a very unpleasant house guest, however this isn't the only reason to remove them. Silverfish will spread very quickly, soon becoming an uncontrollable infestation. Not only that but one of their favourite food sources is the bindings of books, meaning your books will end up falling apart.

Silverfish thrive in areas of moisture so the first point of call to look for the source of the infestation is the bathroom and kitchen. Also under sinks and in piles of leaves or mulch are places you'll commonly find silverfish. Once you've located the source there are a few things you can try to rid yourself of the problem. Sticky roach traps are just as effective for silverfish so this is one avenue you can consider. It's also very easy to create a trap of your own. Start by taking a glass jar and coating the outside with masking tape. This creates a rough surface that the silverfish can climb up. Place some cotton balls or something similar in the jar to act as a lure. The silverfish will climb up and get into the jar, once they're in they won't be able to climb the smooth inside and they'll be trapped. They can then be released far from your home.

Most pest poisons will work just as effectively for silverfish as for anything else. Make sure to avoid exposing children to any sprays or other poisons if this is the route you take. One final tip is to place your books in a plastic bag then place them in the freezer if you're dealing with silverfish. The cold temperatures should kill the silverfish and protect your books from damage.

Cockroaches

Cockroaches are seen as the epitome of dirt and disgust. If a cockroach is present in a bathroom it's assumed to be a dirty place. Because of this people hate to be near cockroaches and their presence could damage your custom if you run a business. The loss of reputation is an important point which could damage a business for years after the cockroaches are gone.

The fear of cockroaches isn't entirely unfounded. Cockroaches are known to transmit disease by carrying harmful bacterial on their bodies and legs. This bacteria is transferred to food and eating utensils and will often cause sickness and other stomach problems. However it should be noted that this bacteria could be transmitted on anything, it's not specifically cockroaches causing the problem. Cockroaches have been found to be a source of allergens for many people. The more cockroaches there are in an infestation the more likely people will become ill due to them. Many conditions such as asthma are very prone to the effects of cockroach allergens. This makes it all the more important to reduce the numbers of cockroaches in your home, especially with a larger number of children developing asthma. Keeping the house clean by hoovering frequently can really help to reduce this effect, however removing the cockroaches is the best way to be safe.

Finally there's the damage that the cockroaches actually do themselves. Many species feed on starchy items which means they'll be eating the bindings of your books. They may also try to get at cereal and meat products and can cause a lot of damage doing so. As the roaches grow they will begin to demolish paper products which can be incredibly frustrating. If you're dealing with a roach problem you need to get it sorted, remember you can always turn to humane methods if extermination doesn't appeal.

Cockroaches are an extremely common problem because they seem to be able to get everywhere. There are however specific ways that cockroaches make their way into homes and businesses. Many cockroaches find themselves in restaurants and other businesses because they are transported from the warehouses. Cockroaches can easily get into cardboard packaging and because of this they get transported throughout the country. The more deliveries that are being made to a building the more likely cockroaches will be hiding in amongst

them.

Often cockroaches will get into a home or apartment on the clothes of the people coming in and out of the building. This is especially common for people who work with food as they will often be exposed to cockroaches at work. Eggs may also get into the home in paper bags and on other stuff brought into your home. Once one home or shop has become infested with cockroaches they will easily move amongst the other buildings in the street. They do this by running along the wiring and water pipes and will often set up colonies in hollow walls. Apartments are especially prone to a quick infestation due to the large number of people living in a relatively small space. Cockroaches are easily able to travel between apartments to find food and safety.

Most cockroaches will tend to live behind large appliances or in cracks in the walls. Anywhere that's dark and hidden is a good bet to find the source of a cockroach problem. They are nocturnal insects and tend only to come out at night to forage for food and water. When using pesticides to remove an infestation it's a good idea to allow an escape route for the cockroaches. When they notice the pesticide they will try to flee, and you want them to be able to get outside rather than staying in the middle of your living room.

Mozzies

Mosquitoes go through three stages of life before reaching the fourth and final stage which we recognise as the mosquito. The first stage is the egg stage, followed by the larva stage and then the pupa stage. These are the steps taken in the development of a full grown mosquito. The first three stages all require a source of standing water to be able to survive. So if you're wondering if mosquitoes are breeding in your garden check for sources of standing water. These may not be as obvious as you expect so you may have to look a little bit closer if you suspect an infestation is developing. Empty plant pots, drain systems and gutters are all commonly overlooked sources of mosquito infestation. Any source of standing water no matter how small can be a potential breeding ground, so look carefully if you're having problems.

It's worth remembering that not all mosquitoes bite. In fact it's only the females that bite people as the protein is required in order for them to be able to produce eggs. Some species of mosquito avoid humans altogether preferring to feed on other mammals and birds. Also many people tend to assume that anything that bites is a mosquito. In truth there are many biting insects that will cause very similar skin reactions and itching.

Most mosquito species will be most active during the 2 hours after sunset so this is the time when you'll be most at risk. However some mosquito species will specifically seek out food during the daytime so it really does depend on the type of mosquito you're dealing with. Finally if you're dealing with a large number of mosquitoes the breeding ground must be close by. Mosquitoes will tend to fly no further than two miles from where they emerge so keep an eye out for pools of standing water within that radius.

A mosquito exterminator is someone who will try to reduce the population of mosquito's in an area using a number of different methods. Although mosquito's are normally considered nothing more than an annoyance they can actually be very damaging. A large number can cause malnutrition problems for livestock and mosquito's will also quickly spread disease throughout the population. In fact mosquito's can be one of the most damaging infestations that you'll encounter.

A mosquito exterminator will first research the type of mosquito they'll be dealing with. This will give them an idea as to what methods will be most likely to work as well as the environment they'll be found in. They will then most

likely do some field research to determine exactly what areas are infested and other possible problem areas. Most mosquito exterminators use a number of different pesticides and other chemicals to deal with the infestations.

The extermination process doesn't just involve the property that's having the difficulty, it will also cover the environment around the area. This means that a mosquito exterminator might seek out a breeding ground away from the property. This allows them to remove millions of larvae before they reach maturity and become full mosquitoes. They may also remove pools of standing water or fill in areas of marshland as these are very attractive environments for mosquitoes.

Unlike other exterminators those dealing with mosquitoes offer a much wider service. Often once the infestation has been dealt with the exterminator will work with the customer to reduce the chances of it happening again. This includes removing any rubbish from the area as well as keeping the ground from getting too damp. Finally it's often recommended that a large property has regular extermination maintenance. This will stop any infestations from taking hold in the first place and keep your property protected for the future.

Ants

The best way to control an ant infestation is to remove the original colony. This can be done humanely but it's requires a lot more effort and expense than the traditional methods. The first thing to do is to follow the line of ants back to the source. They should lead you directly to the main colony. If this seems to be behind a wall the infestation can normally be dealt with by spraying that section of your home with insecticide. However more often than not the main colony will be located outside, you can lay down some honey and follow the ants if you're having trouble finding it.

Once you've found the colony the most common method of removal is to soak the area with an insecticide to kill almost the entire colony in one go. Some ants will not be in the colony so further treatments will be necessary to completely eradicate the infestation. Be sure to find the actual colony before spraying as using an insecticide elsewhere will just cause the ants to find a new route. Also spraying the entire garden with insecticide is unnecessary and harmful. Doing this will kill all of the insects in your garden and there are many helpful insects which keep your garden healthy.

Using poison is another method of ant removal. This method has the advantage of requiring very little effort on your part. The poison will be carried back to the colony and fed to all of the ants making this possibly the most effective method of removal. Finally an indoor infestation can also be dealt with by closing off any gaps or cracks in the walls and doors. This will hopefully remove the ants entrance point and stop them from getting in. If this isn't enough consider spraying insecticide just around the outside of your house to act as a barrier to the ants.

Ants are an extremely common problem in both private residences and businesses such as restaurants. The reason they are so prevalent is because they are so small that they can get in through pretty much any crack. Also once one ant has located a source of food they will inform the rest of the colony meaning you can be quickly overrun. An ant exterminator will keep the population of ants down in buildings which are prone to ant problems. They will also be likely to focus on some preventative measures to protect your home from future ant problems.

one of the first things the exterminator will do is to figure out which species of ant they're dealing with. There are in fact over 10,000 different ant species in the

world of which at least 450 live in North America. By identifying the species of ant an exterminator is able to best decide what measures to use to remove the problem. A different approach may apply for different species of ant. However there are generally only a few species which cause infestation problems and most exterminators are able to easily recognise these.

The method the exterminator decides on will also be based on the situation in your home. For instance if there are young children nearby it's likely that a method will be used that tries to avoid poisons as these can be very dangerous for children. Once these things have been worked out the exterminator will likely check for any existing damage. For instance if the ant species is one known for damaging wood, the exterminator should check the wood work around your home to ascertain the extent of the problem.

A method of extermination will be chosen, often this is done with ingested poison as ants have a communal food source and this method will reach them all. Finally though it's worth considering that there are humane methods of removing ants, but these are generally more expensive.

Rodents

Once rodents are in your home it's very difficult to get rid of them. The mess and droppings begin to build up and this is bad for you and your family. However there are some easy ways to rodent proof your home to stop them getting in to begin with. Generally ensuring a clean environment will remove any food sources they might be finding and force them to move on. The first thing you can do to try and rodent proof your home is to properly clean and tidy the exterior. This includes properly sealing any outside bins and moving them away from the house. Also sweep up any rubbish to remove food sources and nesting areas that may have been started. Try to keep the outside of your home uncluttered as this will create open spaces which rodents try to avoid crossing.

The next step you can take is to fully clean the inside of your home. This will remove the remaining food sources available to the rodents. It's very important to make sure that you carefully store any food in sealed containers. Also regularly clean behind appliances as this is an excellent hiding place for a rodent. By cleaning around and under the appliances you remove any chance of rodent food being found in your home.

The final stage in rodent proofing your home is to repair any damage around the interior and exterior of your home. This is to try and stop up the gap through which the rodents are entering. For instance try replacing old doors with fully sealed ones, also any small holes around pipes need to be filled. The aim is to search the house to find any gap that a rodent could use and block it off. This should stop your rodent problem, be careful though that you don't trap them in the walls.

There are quite a few diseases that humans can contract from rodent droppings, mainly this will be from mice and rats. A person will get ill either through direct contact with the droppings or by breathing in contaminants that are transported in the air. One of the most common diseases that can be transmitted from rat droppings is Hantavirus Pulmonary syndrome. This virus is dangerous because a person's immune system is not prepared to deal with it and it's therefore much more harmful. This is one of the diseases that may even kill you if you contract it so stay away from rodent droppings.

Another virus that can be contracted from rat droppings is Hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome. The symptoms of this virus include a high fever, a rash,

blurred vision and even abdominal pains. Although this virus is not actually deadly these symptoms can be extremely unpleasant. Also those with a weaker immune system such as the very young or the elderly are in danger of dying if they contract this virus.

Lassa fever is another virus that can be picked up from rodent droppings. The symptoms are quite severe and include facial swelling, head and chest pains as well as vomiting and diarrhoea. This virus can be fatal and will leave a sufferer extremely dehydrated. Under normal circumstances very few people die from Lassa fever, however during an epidemic it's been found that nearly half of patients will die from the disease.

Finally Lymphocytic choriomeningitis is a further disease that can be contracted from rodent droppings. This condition causes a viral infection to form around the brain and spinal cord. Although this may sound incredibly serious it's actually very unlikely that you'll die from this unless you are very young. The symptoms manifest in adults in a very similar way to a bad flu, but there's no long term damage.

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