

Haggerty Pest Services



Dedicated to Safety, Service & Satisfaction

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WINTER 2018/2019

Bug Bytes Newsletter

Overlooked Health Benefits

Most people use our services because they don't want to be bothered by pests. There are good reasons to do this, because pests in your home are a nuisance, are disgusting and are an embarrassment. They also damage items and create messes, meaning you end up spending more time cleaning up their droppings, regurgitations, stains, dead pest bodies, and cast-off skins. YUCK! If these were all the benefits from regular professional pest control, it would be more than enough.

But an even bigger value of living pest-free is somewhat more hidden, and it involves *health issues* caused by pests.



By controlling pest problems before they become bigger problems, we make your home a much healthier place to live. The *Salmonella* outbreak that was caused by contaminated peanuts is just one example that underscores the problems pests cause. An unknown number of people became sick, and some died, because of poor sanitation and pest control in a peanut factory. Pests like rats, mice, and cockroaches are common carriers and spreaders of *Salmonella*.

Salmonella poisoning is actually extremely common. There are *1.4 million cases of this illness every year* in this country, and about 500 people die

from it. And *Salmonella* poisoning is *only one of hundreds of diseases pests spread or transmit*.

Regular professional pest control also means less chance of painful or life-threatening stings and bites from pests, as well as reduced allergies from pests like cockroaches, fleas, and mice.

Our professional pest management services are *an incredible value*. We are very proud to be serving a critical role of **"protecting your property, health, and the environment."**

More Pests That Eat Your Home

Besides termites and carpenter ants, there are many other pests that damage wood in a building.



Powderpost beetles are small and easily overlooked by homeowners. The first sign of their attack is usually the tiny holes, no larger than a pencil lead, they produce when they bore out of wood, or the fine sawdust beneath these holes. What makes powderpost beetles particularly destructive is that they reinfest the same wood year after year, causing more damage each year. Some species attack primarily the softwoods used in structures; others attack hardwoods like kitchen cabinets, wood paneling, and furniture.

Other insects that emerge from lumber in homes, but don't reinfest wood, include many **round-headed and flat-headed borers, bark and ambrosia beetles**, and a wasp called the **wood**

wasp. These insects attack trees while they are still standing or just after they have been cut. Some may continue to live in lumber for years and can emerge long after the home is built. The **old house borer**, found in eastern states, is the only one that reinfests wood in homes. It attacks pine and other softwoods.

Carpenter bees are large insects that look like bumble bees but bore into wood to create homes for their young. The tunnel holes are large—1/2" in diameter. These bees often enlarge holes made previously by other bees, or they may create more tunnels nearby.

During our professional inspections we look for all of these wood-destroying pests, as well as moisture problems and destructive decay fungi, to make sure the structural integrity of your home is not being attacked.

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

After deciduous trees have dropped their leaves is a great time to check your roof gutters and make sure they are not plugged up. Gutters easily get clogged with leaves, branches, and other debris. When water backs up in them, mosquitoes breed there, and extra water can spill over onto the side of a home.



Thank you for your business and referrals!

Mosquito and Tick Diseases Triple



The Centers for Disease Control reported this year that from 2004 to 2016, illnesses from mosquito, tick, and flea bites have **tripled** in the United States. Not only were more than 640,000 cases reported during that period, but nine new pathogens were discovered that were transmitted by these pests.

Patriotic Pests



The Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia is said to be the place where the first American flag was stitched together in 1776.

This house is filled with valuable artifacts of that era, including miles of fabrics, plus period chairs and mattresses stuffed with horsehair stuffing. This is all great food for clothes moths, and unfortunately, a serious infestation of a species known as *webbing clothes moths* was discovered there in 2015.

Although the collections manager worked to eliminate the problem, she realized in early 2017 that the infestation had spread to other rooms. At that time a pest control company was called in, and fortunately they were able to eliminate what was becoming an extensive infestation. The company still checks on the house quarterly to monitor and see if the clothes moths return. Fortunately, the most valuable artifacts mostly escaped damage by the moths.



Thank You!

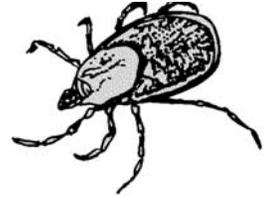
We want to say "Thank You!"

We appreciate your business and support, and the many referrals that come our way each year because of our happy customers.

***We wish each of you Peace, Joy,
Good Health, and Prosperity
throughout the new year!***

A New Tick is Spreading

In the spring we talked about a new tick, called the **longhorned tick** (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*), that is native to Asia but had been found for the first time in New Jersey the previous summer. Everyone had hoped the tick infestation was eradicated, and that it hadn't spread.



Unfortunately, some of the ticks somehow escaped the treatments, and they were found again this summer on the same property. In addition, awareness of the tick has greatly increased around the country. It has been sighted this year in two other counties in New Jersey, as well as locations in New York, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and even Arkansas.

Most of these other tick infestations were probably not from the original New Jersey infestation. It is still unclear if these are all isolated and small infestations, or the tick is more widespread than anyone thought.

This tick is a very serious pest of livestock in other parts of the world where it occurs, but it will also feed on pets, wild animals, and humans as well. It is an aggressive biter. Although it does not appear to be carrying any diseases so far here, in other parts of the world it carries some very serious pathogens.

Continue to take steps to protect yourselves, your children, and your pets from ticks, and report any unusual ticks you find.

Bees Stopped During Solar Eclipse



Surprisingly, the total solar eclipse in August of 2017 was the first time bee activity has ever been studied during a solar eclipse. Scientists, together with "citizen-scientists" (such as teachers, students, and enthusiasts) set up 16 acoustic monitoring stations with microphones in three states along the path of solar totality.

Can you guess what happened? Bees continued to fly even during the partial eclipse phase, but all bee activity stopped during total eclipse. It was the same at every monitoring station.

The next total eclipse in the U.S. will come in 2024. There is so much still to discover!

Hurricane Brings Giant Mosquitoes

Just two weeks after Hurricane Florence hit North Carolina on September 14, huge mosquitoes started to emerge and bite people. These are *Psorophora ciliata*, also called "gallinippers." These mosquitoes are two to three times larger than other mosquitoes, and they can easily bite right through most clothing.

While they are found throughout the eastern U.S., they are not very common until after a flood. These mosquitoes lay eggs in low grassy areas, and the eggs may lay dormant for years until the area floods, when millions quickly hatch and develop into adult biting mosquitoes.

Fortunately, gallinippers don't carry any human diseases, but their bites are nasty, and painful.

