**Termite Work Year Round**

While it might seem that termites would only be active during warmer weather, our technicians and inspectors have found termite activity during even the coldest Kansas winters. What this means to you as a homeowner is that you should have your home inspected annually for the presence of a termite infestation. Call our office today to schedule an appointment for a free termite inspection of your home (if you are buying or selling property, there is a $60.00—$75.00 fee for a real estate inspection).

**Black Widow Spiders**

A mature female is a globe-shaped, black, shiny spider with a red or orange marking or hourglass on the underside of her abdomen. Males are smaller, brown and not a significant threat to people. A strong, irregular web indicates the presence of a black widow spider. They weave egg sacs which may contain up to 300 eggs. Removal or destruction of the egg sacs may help control the population. This spider is resistant to many insecticides.

**Signs & Symptoms:**

The initial sensation may be painful, with little local reaction. Later, pain, cramping and rigidity may appear in the shoulders, back, chest or abdomen. Other symptoms include nausea, vomiting, headache, anxiety and hypertension.

**First Aid:**

Clean the site well with soap and water. Apply a cool compress over the bite location and keep the affected limb elevated to about heart level. Aspirin or Tylenol may be used to relieve minor symptoms. Treatment in a medical facility may be necessary for children less than 5 years old or for adults with severe symptoms. Medical treatment is always advised when a black widow spider bite is suspected.
“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” – Thos. Edison

“In our own case we accept excuses too easily; in other people’s we do not accept them easily enough.” – C. S. Lewis

“It’s never too late to give up our prejudices.” - Henry David Thoreau

Never give up on someone you can’t go a day without thinking about.

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends.” – Chas. W. Eliot

“The only disability in life is a bad attitude.” – Scott Hamilton

These Ladies Are a Nuisance

About the time of first frost, Ladybugs or Ladybird Beetles may gather on the southern or western sides of your home. They can come into your house through any crack, crevice, open window or hole, and remain inactive until spring. They don’t cause any problems except for their presence, sometimes in great numbers! They become active when it gets warm again and try to find their way back outside, where they continue their beneficial work of eating lots of other insects, including major plant pests. They may become active during any warm period during the winter, and often fly to windows or lights at those times. Some kinds of Ladybugs, like the common, wide-spread Multi-colored Asian Ladybug, can come into a house in unbelievable numbers. The best thing to do when they become active in the spring is to help them get outside, alive. You could vacuum the beetles, then remove the vacuum bag, and put that bag in your trash. But it is better to do a preventive careful examination and sealing of all likely entry points before the first cold nights. This can keep most or all of these pests out. For heavy infestations, you may need our help for ongoing surveillance and possibly to treat for any associated secondary pest problems that occur, such as carpet beetles or booklice.