

ADVANCE

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SPOTLIGHT ON FALL PEST CONTROL



A N T S



ODOROUS HOUSE ANTS. When your house is suddenly invaded by hundreds of small-to-medium sized, blackish ants after a heavy rain, they are likely to be Odorous House Ants. Although these ants sometimes make a nest in a wall void or a similar place in a house, their main nest is usually outdoors, in the ground by a shrub, or under a layer of mulch. Following their trails to where they disappear into a crack under a door or other opening to the outside may help confirm that identification. If you crush one or two of them and they smell like rotting coconut, this will also help ID them as Odorous House Ants. Colonies vary in size, with 300 to 300,000 workers and may include many queens. These ants feed on a variety of foods, generally preferring sweets. Some workers may live more than a year. Workers from different colonies are not hostile to each other and routinely share the same trails.

PAVEMENT ANTS. Lines of small-to-medium sized, blackish ants, trailing along water pipes or utility lines, through walls, especially from outdoors, are very likely to be Pavement Ants. An average colony contains 3,000 – 4,000 workers and has several queens. Outside nests are usually located under the edge of a large stone or a sidewalk. They may nest in wall voids, in insulation, under a floor, or in ground-level masonry. Foraging trails may reach 30' or farther from a nest. These ants will feed on nearly anything but often prefer meats or greasy foods. They are not usually aggressive toward humans, but they sometimes bite and have a very painful sting. Workers

of these species are intermediate hosts of two different tapeworms.

Controlling ants requires finding the nest and treating it thoroughly, a process that requires having a competent pest management professional inspect your home, telling him or her about your observations about which room or piece of furniture is usually involved and showing any specimens you have collected. You or one of our pest management professionals can also set out glue boards to catch any ants that might be present. When ants are found, the pest management professional can help you set up a program to either treat with pesticides or baits to eliminate the infestation.

Send us your e-mail address and if we don't already have it, we'll give you a \$5.00 discount on your next general pest control service or \$25.00 on the installation of a Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System for ongoing protection from termite infestation.*

MYTH BUSTERS

Fiction: Bed bugs can fly and will jump on you.

FACT: Bed bugs are known for hitchhiking, but don't jump or fly onto their hosts. They run fast, hide well and adapt to most environments.

Fiction: Bed bugs and their bites transmit disease and cause illness.

FACT: They won't make you sick, necessarily, unless the bites become infected.

Fiction: Bed bugs are only found in unsanitary conditions, never in clean homes.

FACT: Bed bug infestations aren't related to living in filthy conditions. Bed bugs don't discriminate when it comes to harboring and breeding.

Fiction: Bed bugs only bite their host and feed at night.

FACT: Bed bugs can feed at any time but prefer to feed at night. In more severe infestations, feeding can be day or night.

Fiction: Only one type of termite exists in the United States.

FACT: While it sounds completely ridiculous to pest management professionals, many people believe this. (Some species include: subterranean termites, Formosan termites and drywood termites.)

Fiction: Carpenter ants eat wood and process it just like termites.

FACT: Termites eat wood. Carpenter ants build tunnels and use wood to build nests to reproduce.

KEEPING PROBLEMS IN PERSPECTIVE

The next time you feel stressed and/or overwhelmed by your problems, try these strategies:

- ♦ **FOCUS** on what you can control. 85% of what we worry about doesn't happen! A large proportion of the other 15% can be changed or improved by taking some action.
- ♦ **DON'T** invest major energy in minor problems. Ask yourself how important the problem will seem a year from now. Its importance will be minimal, why waste a lot of time and energy on it now?
- ♦ **TACKLE** major stressors head on. Identify the one thing that causes you the most stress each day and take steps to eliminate or alleviate it. For example, if you find arriving home from work to be stressful because you have to simultaneously prepare dinner and deal with your children, plan to order in or go out for an inexpensive dinner one night a week or make double portions of whatever you cook on the weekend, and then just heat up the extra portion later in the week so you don't have to spend an hour in the kitchen when you first arrive home.
- ♦ **ASK** for help if you're really struggling with a problem; don't try to fix it alone. Get support and advice from a friend, family member or professional counselor.
- ♦ **WRITE** it down. Recording thoughts and frustrations in a journal will give you a healthy outlook for expressing your feelings. However, you will also benefit if you analyze the patterns in the problems or situations that seem to challenge you repeatedly. Think about steps you can take to resolve these situations over the long term, rather than continuing to let them cause you stress.

SPIDER BITES

Most spiders live outdoors, do not pose any health risks to people or pets and are generally helpful in keeping insect populations in check. However, all spiders have venom they use to subdue prey and pre-digest their prey's bodily contents. Although all spiders have voluntary control of the amount of venom they inject, only a few species live near or inside people's homes, bite people or have venom which can cause harm to people. If a spider bite is suspected, especially from a black widow or a brown recluse, swelling and redness in the bitten area will occur. Clean the wound with soap and water and use a cold pack on the site to alleviate pain and swelling. Fever, nausea and abdominal pain may occur, in which case the victim should seek medical help. If at all possible,

it is helpful to catch the spider that bit the victim so that it can be identified.



The black widow, pictured here, is probably the most recognized spider of all. The female is about ½ inch long, with a spherical black abdomen marked with a red or orange hourglass. Males look completely different – about half the size of the female, brownish with variable red spots and white lines. Pain from a black widow bite is usually immediate, with maximum pain during the first 1-3 hours and gradual subsidence after 12-48 hours. Major symptoms include fever and increased blood pressure, and one should seek immediate medical attention.

It's always interesting at our office!

If we aren't identifying termites, fleas, ants, or bed bugs, we might get to look at snakes. Be careful out there!

Advance is happy to bring you this Newsletter containing information intended to enhance your life and make it more enjoyable. Please pass our

Newsletter along to a friend or relative who might need our company's services.

Questions or comments? Please call our office at 620.662.3616 or e-mail us (advance@advancepest.com)

Thank you! We sincerely appreciate your business!



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