

Winter Pests That Love Warm Homes

CHEAT SHEET

You probably don't think of invasive pests as a wintertime problem in Virginia. However, you might be surprised at how many rodents and insects make themselves at home in our homes when the weather gets cold. Read on.

DESTRUCTIVE RODENTS

House mice, roof rats and squirrels are drawn to your home's warmth. All three are a noisy nuisance in the attic, but they can nest anywhere in the house.

- Mosquito bites appear as reddish-brown bumps that are very itchy.
- They carry fleas and ticks that transmit multiple diseases to humans.
- Rodents chew through wood, insulation and electrical wiring.

VENOMOUS SPIDERS

Cold weather doesn't slow down spiders in Virginia homes. Venomous brown recluse and black widow spiders stay active, increasing the danger of accidental encounters.

- The arachnids build webs inside dark spaces, including closets, cabinets and furniture.
- While not aggressive, both spiders inflict painful bites when disturbed.
- Wash a venomous spider bite with soap and water, pack with ice, and call the doctor.

FORAGING COCKROACHES

During the winter, indoor German cockroaches are often joined by various species of outdoor wood cockroaches. Both types of insects tend to be nocturnal.

- Cockroach debris aggravates asthma and allergies.
- Bacteria from their foraging contaminates food and surfaces.
- Fast-breeding roaches can overrun a home in just a few weeks.

CHIRPING CRICKETS

Crickets common to Virginia are usually harmless, but they can become a noisy nuisance in the winter. Most house crickets live for two or more years.

- Crickets prefer warm, moist basements, bathrooms and kitchens.
- They're efficient scavengers, feeding on dead organic matter.
- Loud chirping sounds from a cricket infestation can ruin a good night's sleep.

LADYBUGS VS. ASIAN BEETLES

Colorful ladybugs and Asian beetles hibernate during the winter, often inside the house. Ladybugs are considered beneficial insects, but Asian beetles can be a problem.

- Reddish-orange Asian beetles have white heads marked with a dark M shape.
- They leave painful scrapes and foul-smelling liquid on exposed skin.
- Asian beetle secretions can cause allergic reactions and aggravate respiratory issues.

WE'RE HERE EVERY WINTER TOO

If you're facing a cold-weather pest invasion at your home or business, help is just around the corner. We're at your service every winter, regardless of the weather.

When you need pest control Virginia residents know they can trust, give us a call: (804) 589 - 1009.

In an Emergency
Call 911

For Pest Control Help
Call (804) 589-1009

PestNow
Central Virginia

Poison Control
(800) 222-1222.