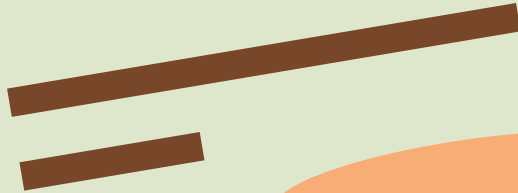


SPRING PEST CONTROL CHECKLIST

How to keep bugs away...



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Spring is just around the corner and that means warmer weather, more rain, and beautiful flowers blooming. You know what they say, March winds bring April showers which brings May flowers! Unfortunately, bugs thrive in this environment, so expect increased bug activity.

This guide will prepare you for the new season and give you an upper hand on those pesky pests. We'll take a look at what kind of bugs you should expect to see and what you need to combat them.

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ANTS

Many types of ants will be active this spring, from carpenter to house ants. They tend to stay outdoors until it begins to rain. That's when they try to find their way into your home to search for food. House ants are looking for moisture, so they will often appear near kitchen sinks and in bathrooms. Carpenter Ants build nests and tunnels in your walls and damage your home.



COCKROACHES

Roaches are looking for a dark, moist environment to call home. Springtime means the sun is increasing in force and the earth is warming up. This means roaches will be looking for a new residence, and your home could be the perfect place.



TICKS

Ticks are one of the most dangerous bugs to encounter this spring due to the effectiveness of their disease transmission. They have a very thorough feeding process that involves attaching themselves to a host and feeding off their blood. They can be commonly found in gardens and find their way inside your home. They cannot fly, but they will try to attach themselves to you or your pets to form a parasitic relationship.



TERMITES

Popularly known for breaking down wood and feeding on cellulose material, these insects may show little to no evidence of their habitation, but could be whittling away at your home. They swarm and create colonies to do massive destruction to the structure and foundation of your home.



BED BUGS

Bed bugs come out when the weather begins to warm up. These nocturnal insects are very unpredictable and hard to read. They may not leave any symptoms of their infestation until it is too late. They can go inactive between meals and can even survive for months without eating. However females can lay up to 5 eggs per day. They are hard to see, but you will feel their presence. You may notice small red bumps, often in the shape of a triangle; this could mean the start of an infestation. They can live in your furniture, floorboards and decorations. Bed bugs can be very difficult to remove without the help of a professional.



FLEAS

Spring is the perfect time to clean up and discourage the habitation of fleas in your backyard. They prefer moist, shady areas like your lawn, or under your deck or porch. The dog flea and the cat flea are very common. They feed on the blood of their hosts and are usually visible on the surface of the mammal. You may notice them jumping into the air. They have long powerful legs that they use to attach themselves to hosts. Flea eggs are usually laid under carpets and in safe, discreet places.



MOSQUITOS

We've all slapped ourselves a few times to squash these pesky blood suckers. Mosquitos are abundant in warm areas, and will look for stagnant water to lay their eggs. Most of us are familiar with the little red bump that swells up when they bite us, but did you know that sometimes they can inject infectious microorganisms that transmit disease. Luckily, the most we'll have to worry about from the common house mosquito is encephalitis. Encephalitis is inflammation of the brain which can cause severe headache and confusion.



STINK BUGS

Commonly seen in the warmer days of the winter, and most active in the spring, stink bugs are harmless bugs just seeking a little shelter and food. Often attracted to your home for the warmth, and in chase of the light, these bugs will find their way in and leave you with the trouble of disposing of them. You must be careful getting rid of stink bugs because when they are threatened they release an odor!

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Looking for ways to stop these bugs from getting into your home? Check off these quick tips as you complete them and watch your property become less desirable to bugs and lower your chance of encountering them in your home.



Clear Debris in Your Yard: Get rid of yard debris in a compost pile or burn it so that it kills any pests or eggs, as this could be a breeding ground for bugs.



Get Rid of Excess Moisture in Your Home: Most bugs love moisture and need it to survive. They will seek out any moist places in your home, so make sure to clean up any spills or splash zones near sinks and to use a dehumidifier in places like your basement or attic. Be cautious of leaky pipes.



Eliminate Standing Water: Stagnant water is a breeding ground for mosquitos. If you have pots or lids in your yard, flip them over so the water doesn't pool up in them. If you have a pool, make sure to maintain it daily so that bugs aren't left to make the place their own. Bird baths, tire swings, and fire pits should also be checked regularly.



Trim the Foliage: Make sure that branches, shrubs, and other vegetation are trimmed and not invading walls or gates near your home. These can provide natural habitats for the bugs and an easy access point to your home.



Seal Up Your Home: Make sure that all entry points to your home are properly sealed and secure. Proper weather sealant on doors, windows, chimneys, and roof shingles can be an easy way to stop bugs from entering your home. Be sure to repair any broken screens on windows and to fill any holes, cracks or gaps in pipes or vents.



Clean, Clean, Clean: Bugs will be attracted to the smell of food. Make sure to clean up crumbs and spills in your house. Vacuum and sweep your floors regularly so food particles don't get forgotten about or hidden under cabinets and appliances. Make sure your garbage cans are sealed and covered. Do not leave dirty dishes in the sink.



Remove Clutter: Cockroaches love the smell of paper and even eat cardboard. They will find shelter in the clutter of boxes and papers as it is a perfect place for them to lay eggs and hide away.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Looking for ways to stop these bugs from getting into your home? Check off these quick tips as you complete them and watch your property become less desirable to bugs and lower your chance of encountering them in your home.



Pack Your Snacks: Put your excess food in sealed containers so bugs are not tempted by the smell or drawn to a large feast. Keep fruit and other food in a secure location like the fridge.



Put Pet Food Away: If you free feed your pets, make sure to pick up the bowls at the end of the night, when they are in bed. When they are done eating, if there is any excess food dispose of it. Don't keep your pet's food supply in the bag it comes in, as those are often hard to reseal. Empty the bag of food into a larger bin that you can scoop food out of. Bugs will be interested in any food they can get, even your pet's.



Use Natural Odors to Deter Bugs: Some bugs, like ants, hate the smell of certain natural odors. Try using vinegar to disinfect your cabinets, countertops and window sills. Ants can't stand the smell of vinegar, cinnamon, black pepper, mint and many more.



Turn Your Lights Off: Some bugs, like stink bugs, are attracted to light. When you are not using them, turn off your outdoor and indoor lights; this will make your home less desirable to bugs, and they won't find it as easily.



Monitor Firewood: If you store firewood in your backyard, make sure it is far from your home. Keep an eye on it so you don't let the firewood rot and house pests. If you notice this happening dispose of it immediately.



Keep Your Family Clean: Wash yourself and your pets whenever you come home from an outdoor adventure. An easy way for bugs to get into your home is by hitching a ride inside on you. Your clothes should be put in the wash and you should be sure to rinse off your body to remove any hidden creatures. If your pets spent the day out in the woods make sure to give them a quick bath.

HOW TO KEEP BUGS OUT FOR GOOD

Ultimately, if you want bugs out for good, you need to bring a professional on board.

While there are steps you can take to limit bug activity in and around your house, the average homeowner does not have access to the tools or knowledge necessary to completely pest-proof their home.

When you bring on a pest control professional to eliminate an insect infestation, they'll be able to quickly identify the source of the problem, kill all the bugs in your home, remove them safely and effectively, and apply a barrier around your home to keep them from ever coming back.

At Breda Pest Management, our team of licensed and certified pest control professionals have provided residents across the state of Georgia with safe and effective pest control for decades. No matter what pest is bugging you, we've got the tools and the know-how to keep it out of your house for good.

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