



HOME & GARDEN

Dealing with nuisance insects

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

The key to dealing with nuisance insect pests is to block their access and remove their food source. In general, that means cleaning up around the home and sealing cracks and holes in the exterior of the home. One solution is use of a home barrier spray. "You apply it every spring around windows and doors and even roof eaves," said Billy Moon at Nydam's Ace Hardware in John Day. "It will deal with stink bugs, those beetles that are common around here."

The latest in insect control is the Bug-A-Salt 2.0. Resembling a Supersoaker in design but loaded with common table salt instead of water, the Bug-A-Salt turns insect hunting into a sport with a shotgun effect.

Ants

Ants enter homes through window and door frames or pipe and wiring chases. Homeowners should trim outdoor plantings away from the structure and keep landscaping materials such as compost or bark mulch away from siding. Pesticide baits provide a good way to deal with ants already in the structure.

Baits may require several weeks to be effective. Over-the-counter pesticide sprays may cause ants to scatter throughout a home, and carpenter ants may not respond well to baits, so a licensed pest control professional may be needed.



Billy Moon at Nydam's Ace Hardware in John Day holds the latest in pest control, the Bug-A-Salt 2.0 gun, which shoots common table salt at nuisance insects. On the shelf are dozens of other sprays and powders for dealing with nuisance insects.

Wasps, yellowjackets and hornets

Wasps, yellowjackets and hornets can enter a structure through cracks and holes in the siding. Otherwise, their nests will be visible attached to exterior siding, typically high up under an eave.

Wasps, yellowjackets and hornets are less active in the evening and early morning, when the air is cool and they usually return to their nests. That's the best time for homeowners to



Nydam's Ace Hardware in John Day offers a wide variety of solutions to nuisance insects, from long-range wasp sprays and hornet traps to foam spray for nests.

hit the nests with a pesticide formulated for wasp nests contained in a high-pressure can that can spray for 20 feet or more. Homeowners are advised not to treat nests with any household chemicals

diethyl toluamide (DEET) are effective against ticks. Around the home, tick populations can be reduced by using residual insecticides.

Flies

Flies and mosquitoes will enter homes through open unscreened windows or doors — or holes in screens. Food sources and breeding areas can be reduced by keeping garbage cans sealed, removing animal refuse and eliminating outdoor objects that can hold small pools of water, such as tires, pails and tarps.

Where fly populations are high, properly located fly traps can be effective both indoors and outdoors.

An outward-blowing fan placed near an open window or door can lessen the number of flies entering at that location.

Silverfish

Silverfish are wingless insects less than half an inch long with two long antennae and three long filaments at the tail and are commonly seen in homes with wood-shake roofs.

They prefer warmer locations, such as attics, but are associated with damp conditions found in basements and bathrooms.

Reducing humidity can help eliminate silverfish. Household insecticides are effective if an infestation is not manageable by other means.

For more information on dealing with nuisance insects, visit <https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/structural-health/nuisance-household>.

Ticks

Tick habitat near homes can be reduced by keeping grass and weeds well trimmed. To estimate tick populations, drag a white cloth through vegetation and count the ticks that readily appear attached to the cloth.

Ticks that live off deer mice carry Lyme disease. Adult Rocky Mountain wood ticks live off larger mammals, including sheep and deer. Ticks attached to humans or pets should be removed quickly.

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Warm weather is here and many of us will take to the outdoors for a variety of activities. Oregon Trail Electric would like to make certain these activities are safe, so here are a few safety tips to keep in mind:

- Kites may soon be filling the windy sky. Please remind your youngsters of how to fly their kites safely by staying away from power lines. Use only dry cotton string, never fishing line, which may contain metal. If your kite gets snagged on overhead lines, don't try to untangle it. Call us at 1-866-430-4265.
- Call before you dig, it's the law! Before digging holes for trees, fence posts, sprinkler systems or other items, Call 811.
- When working outdoors, it's easy to forget some potentially fatal hazards. Overhead power lines can be hazardous when trimming trees, climbing ladders or moving irrigation pipe. Be sure to look up and around before you start any of these types of projects.

For more important safety information, visit www.otecc.com

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