

URBAN PEST NEWS

Silverfish

Silverfish can eat and stain books, fabric, food and wallpaper, but are often considered to be more of a nuisance than a pest. These insects have flattened, carrot-shaped bodies with three long "tails" emerging from the tip of the abdomen. The body is covered with fine scales that give them a silver sheen. Immatures look like adults, only smaller.

Usually silverfish are not seen by homeowners because they tend to be active at night. They can commonly be found behind baseboards, in attics, closets or near bookcases. They will often hide behind baseboards or around door and window casings. Silverfish feed on starchy foods like paper, flour, oats or glue.

Tips:

- ◆ Remove old books, papers & magazines
- ◆ Store items in sealed, plastic bags or containers
- ◆ Clean closets on a regular basis
- ◆ Reduce humidity with fans, air conditioning or dehumidifiers
- ◆ Repair any water leaks
- ◆ Inspect all items before bringing them into the house
- ◆ Target treatments to harborage areas- wall voids, closets, attics, behind baseboards closets, attics



Ticks

Many people don't consider ticks a problem since areas with high populations of imported fire ants tend to have lower population of ticks. Ticks have not disappeared and can be a pest in some locations.

Ticks are arachnids, more closely related to spiders than insects. They have two body regions and eight legs. Immature ticks require a blood meal before molting to the next developmental stage. Adult female ticks also require a blood meal before laying eggs. Since ticks can feed on multiple hosts during their lifetime, including humans and animals, they are capable of transmitting disease organisms through their bite. Ticks wait for their hosts by climbing up vertical surfaces such as vegetation, fences or shrubbery. When a host brushes past, the tick grabs on and locates a suitable spot on the host to feed.

When treating for ticks with a pesticide, treat up vertical surfaces such as the house, trees and fences.

Tick Removal Tips:

- ◆ Do not use hot matches, petroleum jelly or grease; it could increase the chance of infection
- ◆ Grasp tick close to the head
- ◆ Pull firmly but gently without twisting
- ◆ Do not touch or smash the tick with your bare hands
- ◆ Wash bite area with warm, soapy water

Ladybug Aggregation

Lady beetles are beneficial insects, right? Not in all cases. Sometimes they can turn into a nuisance pest.

Multicolored Asian Lady Beetles are an introduced species from Asia that were brought to the U.S. for controlling pest insects. They have become established in various parts of the U.S. where they are considered beneficial insects and help reduce populations of aphids and scale insects.

This species of ladybug likes to choose overwintering sites around buildings and can congregate in large numbers. Many times they move indoors to invade living areas. When these insects are disturbed, they respond with reflux bleeding, where the insect excretes a yellowish liquid that can stain cloth and cause skin irritation in some people. The ladybugs may also bite causing a welt to form.

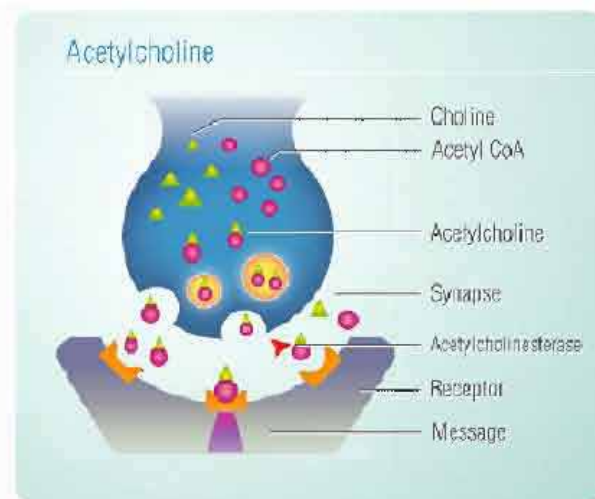
To keep these beetles from moving indoors, exclusion techniques should be used. Seal cracks and crevices in late summer through fall. If beetles are already inside the home, a vacuum can be used to suck up the insects. Vacuum bags should be disposed of outside so the insects do not crawl out and re-enter the home.



Spotlight on MOAs Carbaryl

Carbaryl is in the carbamate group of pesticides. It works as a contact and stomach poison. Carbaryl is an inhibitor of cholinesterase enzymes, so it does not allow acetylcholinesterase to be broken down in the synaptic region of the nerve.

Normally, acetylcholine is released into the synapse of the nerve which allows the nerve impulse to travel along to the next nerve cell, but acetylcholine must be broken down in the synapse by acetylcholinesterase or the nerve will continually fire the impulse. When carbaryl is used, the acetylcholine cannot be broken down in the synapse, so the nerve impulse continues to fire which leads to paralysis and death of the insect.



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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



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