



URBAN PEST NEWS

THE "BITING" ISSUE Happy Halloween



FLEAS

Fleas can be a difficult pest to manage without the homeowner's assistance. When bidding a flea job, make sure to explain that you require the homeowner's cooperation following sanitation practices. Homeowners should change pet bedding regularly and wash it in hot water. They should vacuum the house, making sure to get underneath furniture (including cushions) as well as along baseboards. Vacuuming can reduce flea populations by removing 30% of larvae and 60% of eggs. Remind customers to dispose of vacuum bags in an outside garbage can once a week so the fleas do not re-infest the house.



Pets should be on a flea treatment. Regular grooming, including a bath and use of a flea comb, can help reduce flea populations. There are a variety of pesticide treatment options for pets including dips, sprays, spot-ons and pills.

If a homeowner is having a flea infestation, but does not have any pets, check the crawl space or attic for wildlife. Animals such as squirrels, raccoons, wild dogs and cats can be a source of infestation.

Explain to the customer that several treatments will be needed. Flea pupae are difficult to kill with pesticides, so a second treatment should be performed 7-10 days after the initial application.

CHIGGERS - Did You Know???

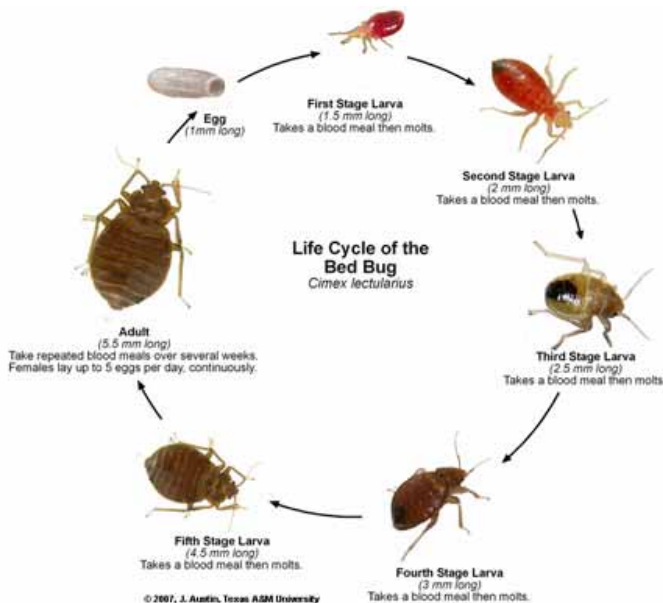
- Chiggers are the immature stage of a mite.
- Chiggers only have 6 legs in the immature stage.
- Chiggers do not burrow into the skin.
- Chiggers do not suck blood.
- Itching and reddish welts are caused by the skin reacting to digestive enzymes the chiggers inject.
- Encourage customers to keep their lawns trimmed to reduce chigger populations.
- Treat chiggers using a residual pesticide, usually a spray or granular formulation.

Bedbugs

Bedbugs feed on the blood of humans causing spindle-shaped welts. Although they feed on blood, it has never been proven that bedbugs transmit disease. Bedbugs typically are spread through clothing and bedding from traveling, secondhand bedding or furniture. Bedbugs can also move through wall voids into adjacent areas, such as in apartment complexes.

When infestations first begin, bedbugs are usually found in the tufts, seams and folds of mattresses. If the population increases without being managed, they will spread to other areas of the room including crevices of headboards, behind baseboards, window and door casings, pictures and picture moldings, in furniture, behind wallpaper and in cracks and crevices.

The first step in a bedbug management program should be a thorough inspection of the home to locate where the infestation occurs. Either bring a vacuum with you to clean in the infested areas, or



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encourage your customers to vacuum the area. Customers may also want to use plastic mattress covers to prevent bedbug infestations. Explain to customers that control will probably not be immediate as pesticides cannot penetrate all hiding places and a second treatment may be needed.

Psocids / Booklice

Booklice, also known as paper lice or psocids, are minute, soft bodied insects that are usually wingless. They



are similar in appearance to lice, but have long, threadlike antennae. Booklice feed on microscopic mold, fungi or starchy items and can often be found in humid areas of homes, warehouses or libraries. Crawl spaces, leaking plumbing, houseplants, bird nests, book bindings, wallpaper, and stored grains are all areas that may harbor booklice infestations. Booklice can cause skin irritation in people who are sensitive.

The best way to manage booklice is to keep populations from growing. Encourage customers to reduce humidity and eliminate mold and mildew which is a food source for the insects. Stored food products should be used promptly (within 6 months). Good sanitation practices, such as vacuuming and mopping, can also help reduce food availability. Leaky plumbing should be repaired and crawl spaces vented to allow for air flow. Chemical control is often not required if good sanitation practices are in place.

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