

Got Pests?

Pennsylvania Integrated Pest Management Program
Penn State Entomology



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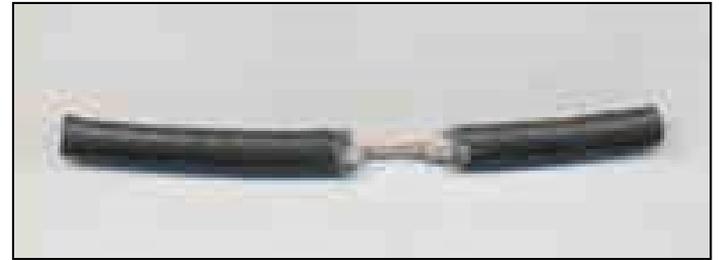


What's a pest?

“Any destructive or troublesome organism”

- Affect public health
- Destroy food or property
- Create a nuisance

Something we don't like, where we don't want it!

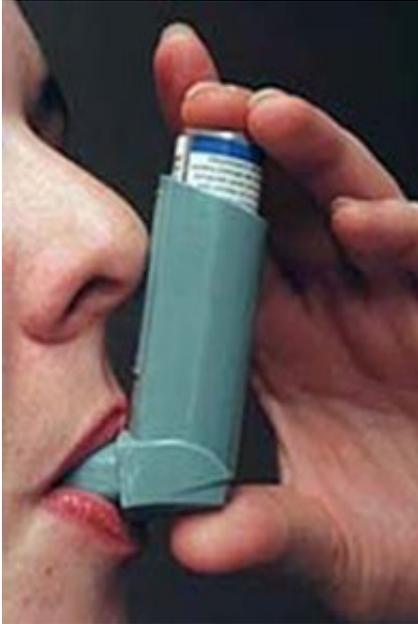


Rodent-chewed wire – fire hazard!



Mice nesting – wherever!

What do they do to us?



Pests cause allergies & can trigger asthma – also eczema, other allergies

- Mice - 83% of *all* homes!
 - 95% of low-income homes!
 - 89% of schools!
- Cockroaches – up to 63%

Asthma - rate has doubled in 20 years:

- Up to 30% or more of children under 18
- Main cause of lost school days... and work days!
- African American children are hospitalized and die 7x as White children; Latinx – 3x!

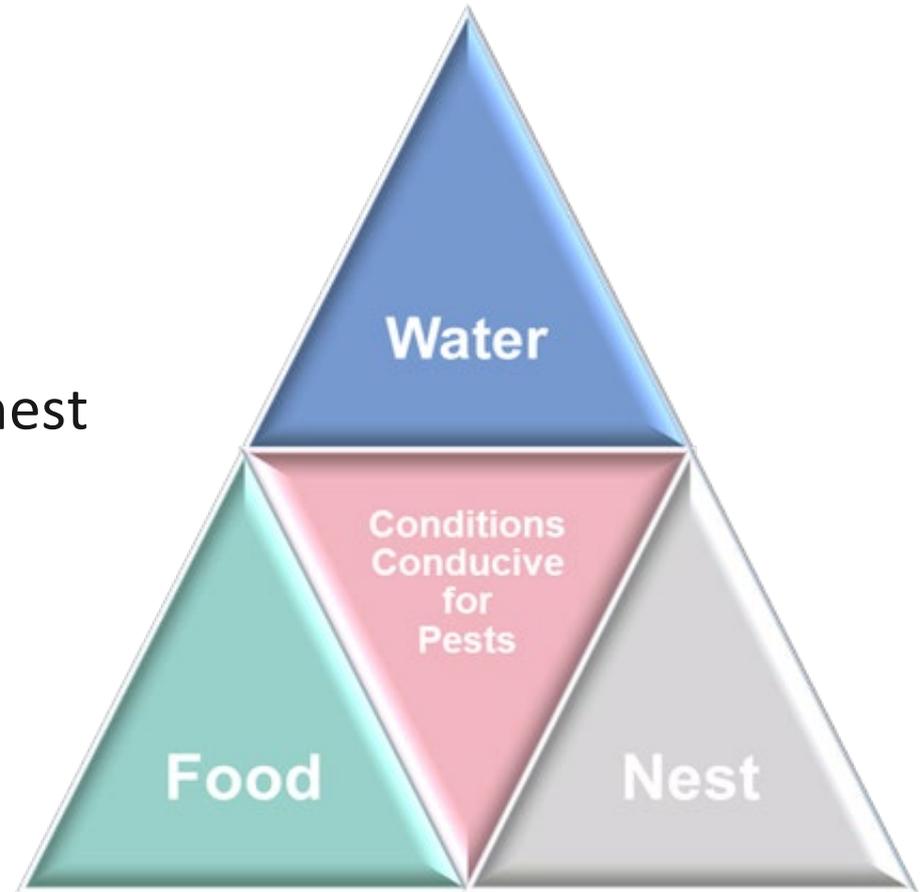
Bite us – Lyme, West Nile, rabies

- Thousands of rat bites each year in US!

What do pests want?

All pests want **three** things:

1. Food
2. Water
3. Harborage
 - Someplace to hide & nest
 - Ideally: warm



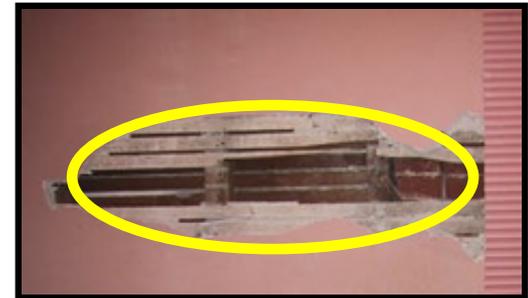
How they get in?

Find out! Do a thorough inspection:

- *Where have you seen them?*
- Outside of the house
- Inside: corners, floors, closets & basement

Identify the pests found!

- Online
- Experienced pest control workers
- Urban entomologist
 - IPM/Penn State Extension
 - 215-264-0582



Where do they hide?



Mouse nest under oven

Photo: EA Kasameyer

Where do you see the creature?

- Creature droppings
- Nests and burrows
- Good food & source of water
 - Under sinks, kitchens, garbage cans
- Hidden places
 - Inside walls, cabinets, basements, attics, waste bins, baseboards
- Warm cavities for insects
 - Inside microwave ovens, TV's, computers, smoke alarms...
- Near entry holes
 - Spotted during outside inspection



Cockroaches nesting in baby food case

Photo: Houston Bureau of Children's and Environmental Health

How do you get rid of them?

Prevent them!

- o Keep 'em out!

Sanitation

- o Clean & de-clutter
- o Eliminate food & water

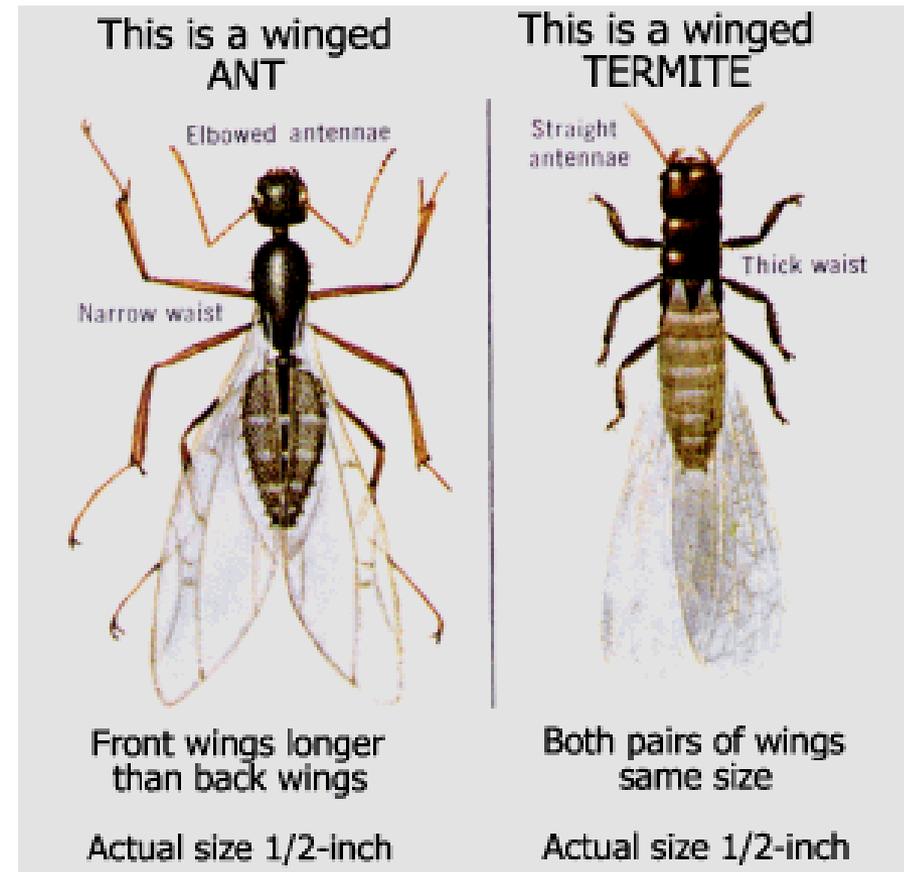
Physical controls

- o Identify them!

Chemical controls

- o Least exposure

Ongoing monitoring



Don't use sprays or foggers!



- They don't solve the problem
- They may trigger asthma attacks
- They may have other health effects
- Children are most at risk
- Foggers can also explode!



Home destroyed by fogger explosion

Action Items

- Check your home for ways pests might get in
- Check your home for the things pests need
- Communicate with your neighbors, building manager, and/or landlord openly about pest issues
- Communicate and cooperate with pest management companies (“exterminators”)
- Watch what they do and insist they use the safest methods for you and your family

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Sources as noted on slides and in References

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