

*"We Do It Like
We Live There!!"*

The Newsletter of
A-Plus Pest Control, Inc. 4120 W. Oakton St. Skokie, IL 60076
847 676 3477 888 APLUS99 www.apluspest.com

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A-Plus Notes

Have you been to our new location at 4120 W. Oakton St.?

For pictures of our August Grand Opening - please visit

www.apluspest.com

A-Plus Services

(Commercial and Residential)

Ants

Wasps

Hornets

Yellow Jackets

Bees

Termite Inspections

Odor Control

Cockroaches

Mice/Rodents

Mosquitoes

Perimeter

Treatments Flies

Moths

Earwigs

Centipedes

Spiders

Sanitation Programs

DrainForce System for Commercial Kitchen Drains

See article page 2

Moisture Control with Temp-Vents

Residential Tips



We're Back . . .

From the mouths of mice. Yes, they will return. You may never see one, but you will see evidence of their presence - droppings on your kitchen counters, in the drawers and of course holes in your cereal box along with chewed food storage containers. Now what do you do? Let's go back to the beginning and talk about preventing their entrance into your home.

Mice are curious. They will enter any hole, space or crevice because they can. If they decide that they like it better in your climate controlled house than outdoors - where it is cold - guess what? You'll have mice.

As winter approaches, it is important to remember that the past several winters have actually been mild - giving mice more opportunities to multiply than in past years, resulting in the rapid growth in their population.

Examine the exterior of your house. Check the weather-stripping on all windows, doors and garages. It takes 1/4 inch (the size of a pencil) for a mouse to gain entrance to your living area. Make sure that these cracks and holes are filled up and sealed. And don't leave the hard-to-reach high up areas untreated. Mice can climb extremely well, and in fact are capable of jumping 12 inches vertically and up to 12 feet downwards without injury. This means they can climb that tree that overhangs your roof, jump down onto your roof, and enter through your attic window.

Once you have sealed up all the crevices and holes you could see, then you need to fill the ones you can't see. Wait until it is dark outside. Turn off all the lights in your house and close the draperies. Send someone into the crawl space or basement with a very powerful flashlight (like the ones they always had in the X-Files). Now you go outside, have the person turn on the flashlight and both of you walk around the house - one inside, one outside. The light on the inside will show you any cracks or holes that you missed. Make a note of where the light showed through, and go back the next day and patch these areas.

Yes, there is more you can do . . .

In addition to seeking out food, mice are always on the lookout for good bedding materi-

als. Take a look at your garage or storage shed. Are there newspapers piled up in the corner, cardboard boxes on the floor or shelves? Get rid of them if you can. If you can't get rid of the box because you or your spouse might need its contents in the next ten years - consider taking a trip to the hardware store or drug store and purchasing a plastic container with a tight fitting lid. Not only does it look better, protect the contents better and doesn't smash, mice have not figured out how to use plastic to make bedding materials.

Oh, by the way - don't forget that bag of grass seed over in the corner. Think about it. When you look at it you see the seed you never quite got around to spreading. To a mouse, it is an endless supply of food, surrounded by bedding material. You might want to purchase an extra container while you are at the store for the grass seed.



A-Plus Special

Free Mouse and Rodent House Inspection!

We will show you where they can get in so you can stop them now.

But, if you are too late . . .

Found some mouse droppings in that silverware drawer? Guess what? They beat you to the punch. Fortunately, since mice are basically dumb and virtually blind, you can still live in a mouse free abode.

Mice are creatures of instinct. When they go wandering - they tend to walk the same path they took yesterday, and the day before, which of course is the one they strolled down last week. If you found their droppings, you found part of their route. You have 3 choices at this point.

- 1. Call a Pest Control Company** - Naturally, I want you to call me. But, if you don't, the first thing a professional will do is inspect the outside of your house and make sure it is "sealed".

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Commercial Tips

And we never left . . .

Hot water, bleach, detergent, countless cans of Insect Spray. Please continue - you are merely treating the symptoms. Until you treat the cause - we'll never leave.

Fruit Flies & Drain Flies - aka Moth Flies, Filter Flies, Sewage Flies

Adults are frequently mistaken for small moths since their wings create a roof like structure over their body while resting. This resembles a moth, hence the name Moth Flies. Filter, Sewage and Drain Flies provide a name that is self-explanatory. Regardless of what you call them, you can usually find them moist, highly organic areas such as sink drains, storm drains, or any area or thing that holds water for long periods of time.

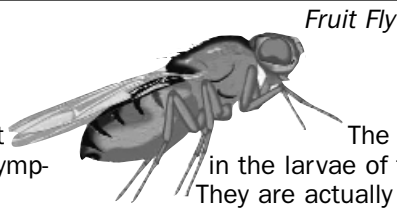
The adult Drain Fly is what calls for your attention. It lives for an average of 3-4 days, and in optimal situations, can actually live for weeks if food sources are available. This is usually what causes awareness of the situation, and sprays are used, bleach is poured down drains, and floors mopped extra hard. Voila - The flies are gone.

Well, Kinda, Sorta maybe . . .

You have killed the adults. There are no more flies flying around your kitchen, warehouse or mop sink. How many do you think you killed? 100, 1,000, 10,000. They are small, so 10,000 might not be out of the question. Out of the 10,000 that you killed, the law of averages dictates that 5,000 of them were female. Since females are capable of producing over 100 eggs, that means there are 500,000 eggs waiting to be hatched.

Now you know what we meant with the headline **"And we never left . . ."**

You have been treating the symptom - now you can treat the cause safely and continuously for less money than you are spending to treat the symptom.



The problem exists in the larvae of the Drain Fly. They are actually the strongest phase of the lifecycle. Their jaws are incredibly strong for feeding on bacteria, algae, fungi and other microorganisms that thrive in moist, decaying organic matter - the exact stuff coating the inside of your plumbing pipes. This represents the cause of the Drain Fly problem. Unless you can get rid of this decaying organic matter, the larvae will develop into adults and new eggs will be produced.

You have to attack the larvae food source - the grime and muck lining your drain pipes. Once you've dealt with the food source, the larvae will not become adults. The best way to do this is with a long handled brush, and drain cleaners. This will dissolve a great deal of the food source. But, it got there once, it will get there again. You need to start a continuous program that continually attacks the build-up of this food source.

At A-Plus Pest Control, Inc. we have just the program to attack that food source in the drains - eliminating Drain and Fruit Flies. We use the *DrainForce System*, introducing a bacteria that feeds off the bacteria needed by Drain and Fruit Flies to continue their life cycle. By designing a program, that when carried out by a professional, A-Plus Pest Control can eliminate your Drain and Fruit flies now and into the future. Unlike enzymes - which are illegal to use in Illinois - this product is bacteria based - and is totally harmless to people, cooking surfaces and will not harm the environment.

Even if you don't use A-Plus for your pest control, you can use us for your drain maintenance and sanitation programs. Stop treating the symptoms - call A-Plus Pest Control to treat the cause of your Drain and Fruit Fly problems and spend your time and efforts on more important issues - *your customers*.

Residential Tips

We're Back . . .

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- 2. Set traps or baits** - Traps are effective, but you have to dispose of the dead mice - so get some plastic gloves. Baits are effective also, but the mouse will eat the food and hide. The result is a dead mouse between the walls of your daughters bedroom.
- 3. Get a cat** - Let's not go here - please.

If you use a trap - remember that mice are not created in Walt Disney's imagination. Mice actually prefer many other foods over cheese. In fact, one of their favorite foods is chocolate. Imagine that. Well, I am not going to waste MY chocolate on a mouse. Actually, peanut butter works well too, but in most cases, people tend to pile it up too high. Try putting a little on and wiping it off. Now sniff it. Do you smell the peanut butter? If so, well, there is enough peanut butter on it.

Not into sniffing mouse traps? I can relate. Try wrapping a piece of thread around the treadle of the trap. Then, grab a Q-tip. Put a little vanilla extract on the Q-tip and then wipe the tread with the Q-tip. Vanilla extract is powerful and a little on the thread will go a long way. And since mice are virtually blind, they scavenge almost entirely by smell. Sight does not play an effect, which is why you don't really need food on the trap as much as odor.

Start now, as temperatures begin to drop. Do your exterior inspection, seal the holes, and remove the food and bedding materials in the garage/storage shed. Let's try stopping them before they show up one day and announce to you that **We're Back!**



*Left to right:
Steve, Rick, Mark, Marsha, Mario, Angel*

Call Today for a Free Estimate or to Schedule a Home Mouse Inspection

**Suburbs
847 676 3477**

**Chicago
773 338 3477**

**Toll Free
888 APLUS99**

**Fax
847 676 3480**

**e-mail
rick@apluspest.com**

**Website
www.apluspest.com**

