

A-Plus Notes

Have you been to our new location at 4120 W. Oakton St.? For pictures of our Grand Opening - please visit www.apluspest.com

A-Plus Services

(Commercial and Residential)

- Ants
- Wasps
- Hornets
- Yellow Jackets
- Bees
- Termite Inspections
- Odor Control
- Cockroaches/Waterbugs
- Mice/Rodents
- Mosquitoes
- Perimeter Treatments
- Flies
- Moths
- Earwigs
- Centipedes
- Spiders

Sanitation Programs

- DrainForce System for Commercial Kitchen Drains and Garbage Chutes in any building



Commerical Tips

Ask Rick . . .

Many restaurants have asked:

*How do we get rid of fruit and drain flies?
My current pest control company is not solving my fly problem—What can I do?*

Keep reading for my answers below and check our website (www.apluspest.com) for more details and links.



Hot water, bleach, detergent, countless cans of Insect Spray. Please continue - you are merely treating the symptoms. Until you treat the cause - the problem will continue.

Fruit Flies & Drain 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.

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!



Mice

The house mouse (*Mus musculus*) is considered one of the most troublesome and economically important pests in the United States. House mice live and thrive under a variety of conditions in and around homes, farms and commercial properties. House mice consume food meant for humans or pets. They contaminate food-preparation surfaces with their feces, which can contain the bacterium that causes food poisoning (salmonellosis). Their constant gnawing causes damage to structures and property.

Recognizing Mouse Infestations

Droppings, fresh gnawing and tracks indicate areas where mice are active. Mouse nests, made from fine shredded paper or other fibrous material, are often found in sheltered locations. House mice have a characteristic musky odor that identifies their presence. Mice are occasionally seen during the day.

House Mouse Facts

House mice are gray or brown rodents with relatively large ears and small eyes. An adult weighs about 1/2 ounce and is about 5 1/2 to 7 1/2 inches long, including a 3 to 4 inch tail.

Although house mice usually feed on cereal grains, they will eat many kinds of food. They eat often, nibbling bits of food here and there. Mice have keen senses of taste, hearing, smell and touch. They are excellent climbers and can run up any rough vertical surface. They will run horizontally along wire cables or ropes and can jump up 13 inches from the floor onto a flat surface. They can slip through a crack that a pencil will fit into (slightly larger than 1/4 inch in diameter).

In a single year, a female may have five to 10 litters of usually five or six young each. Young are born 19 to 21 days after mating, and they are mature in six to 10 weeks. The life span of a mouse is about nine to 12 months.

Prevention and Control

Effective mouse control involves sanitation, mouse proof construction and population reduction. The first two are useful as preventive measures. When a mouse infestation already exists, some form of population reduction is almost always necessary. Reduction techniques include trapping and poisoning. Sanitation is also very important.

Mouse-Proof Construction.

The most successful and permanent form of house mouse control is to "build them out" by eliminating all openings through which they can enter a structure. All places where food is stored, processed or used should be made mouse-proof. Dried grain and meat products should be stored in glass jars, metal canisters or other resealable airtight containers. Finally, seal any openings larger than 1/4 inch to exclude mice from entering your home.

Adapted from IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) website. See our website for more of this article and other links..



Both the square and circle are large enough for a mouse to enter



Look for Our Ad in Food Industry News

Norway Rats

The Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*, also called the brown rat or sewer rat) is a destructive pest found in urban and suburban areas. These rodents eat and contaminate food, damage buildings and property by their gnawing and burrowing, and may spread diseases that affect people and pets.



Recognizing Rat Infestations

The presence of rats can be detected by droppings or evidence of gnawing. Tracks can be seen in mud and on dusty surfaces. Runways and burrows may be found next to buildings, along fences or railroad tracks, and under low vegetation and debris.

Rat Facts

Norway rats are husky, brownish rodents that weigh about 11 ounces. They are about 13 to 18 inches long including the 6 to 8 1/2 inch tail. Their fur is coarse and mostly brown with scattered black on the upper surfaces. The belly is typically grey to yellowish-white.

Rat-Proof Construction.

The most successful and permanent form of rat control is to "build them out" by making their access to structures impossible. Ideally, all places where food is stored, processed or used should be rodent-proof. A rat needs a 1/2" to get in but seal any openings larger than 1/4 inch to exclude both rats and mice.

What is IPM?

Integrated Pest Management is a simple concept.

- 1 – Inspect**
- 2 – Determine a plan of action**
- 3 – Treat the problem.**

Use the smallest amount of pesticides as possible and use them only as necessary. We use a combination of cultural, physical, biological and chemical pest management strategies. In your restaurant, school, warehouse, office building, or any other building, you will find our technicians spending most of their time inspecting and asking questions. They spend their time searching for problems; solving those problems and reporting those problems, in writing to you, so that together we can eliminate the problems and keep your building pest free.

What does it mean?

"We Do It Like We Live There!"

When you've had a long day and you're really tired, you still must do the very best job where you are. At this point, whether you're in a restaurant, a home, an apartment or any other building, the place that you are is your only customer. Forget how tired you feel and treat it "like you live there!" You would not poison your own family and you would do the most thorough and complete job in your own home. If you've met any of our technicians, you know that they truly "do it like we live there!" No excuses, just great service!

Check the A-Plus website (www.aplustest.com) for more info and updates. Click on ASK RICK or FAQ or explore our links.

Call Today for a Free Estimate

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