



# ADVANCE TECH PEST CONTROL

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Family Owned & Operated Since 1980

## The Pest Bulletin

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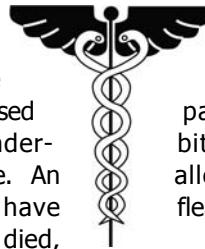
# Overlooked Health Benefits

Most people use our services because they don't want to be bothered by pests. There are good reasons to do this, because pests in your home are a nuisance, an interruption, an inconvenience, and an embarrassment. They also damage items and create messes, meaning you end up spending more time cleaning up their droppings, regurgitations, stains, dead bodies, and cast-off skins—sometimes not even knowing this stuff came from pests. *Yuck!* If the benefits from regular professional pest control ended there, it would be more than enough.

But an even bigger value of living pest-free is somewhat more hidden, and it involves health issues with pests. By controlling pest problems before they

become bigger, we actually make your home a much healthier place to live. The recent *Salmonella* outbreak caused by contaminated peanuts underscores the problems pests cause. An unknown number of people have become sick, and some have died, because of poor sanitation and pest control in the peanut factory. It can come from various sources, but pests like rats, mice, cockroaches, and other pests are common transmitters of this disease.

Actually, it is surprising how common *Salmonella* poisoning is. There are 1.4 million cases of this illness every year in this country, and 500 people die from it. And *Salmonella* poisoning is only one of hundreds



of diseases pests spread or transmit.

Regular professional pest control also means less chance of painful or life-threatening stings and bites from pests, as well as reduced allergies from pests like cockroaches, fleas, and mice.

Our professional pest management services are an incredible value. We are very proud to be serving an important role of **"protecting your property, health, and the environment."**

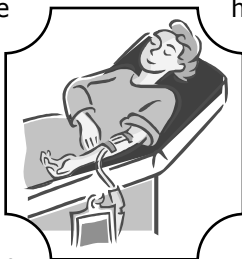
## Green Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

To help keep ants out of your kitchen, here are two things you can do in addition to our regular treatments: 1) Once a package has been opened, store the food in containers with tight lids or in the refrigerator; and 2) clean up crumbs and spills and empty the kitchen garbage daily

## Voluntary Blood Donations Only!

We like to think we only give blood at a blood bank, when we choose to do something to help other people. But the fact is, a lot of pests like fleas and bedbugs use our blood as food and suck it out of us without us even knowing they are doing it. They do this with almost surgeon-like precision, slicing through our skin with their sharp mouthparts, all the time bathing the cut in very effective local anesthetics so we don't even notice it. This is the stuff horror movies are made of!

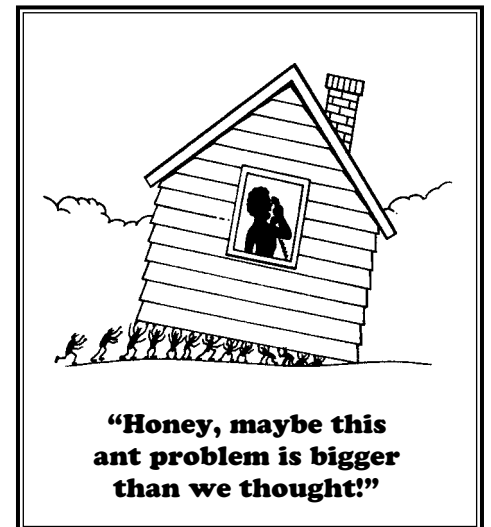
You might never know it happened, except that the compounds these pests inject into you causes an allergic reaction that can result in a local welt or bump, plus itching. And because these pests tap directly into the bloodstream, some transmit various dangerous diseases directly into our blood.



So *who are these culprits?* Certainly we are hearing a lot lately about *bedbugs*, a pest which most people for decades only heard about in nursery rhymes, but which is coming back with a vengeance. The idea that these bugs feed on people while they are sleeping gives most of us the creeps!

But there are a wide variety of other pests that suck blood, and they are so good at that they can do it in broad daylight when we are wide awake, and we still don't know it. These include various kinds of *ticks*, *fleas*, *mosquitoes*, *biting midges*, *blood-sucking flies*, *mites*, *chiggers*, *bird bugs*, and *conenose bugs*.

Fighting bugs is what we are all about. It's good to know we help save blood too, so if you want to donate yours to a local blood bank, *you'll have more to give!*



## Foreclosed Homes Create Pest Problems




Vacant or poorly maintained properties can be a breeding place for a number of pests, and unfortunately these pests often end up invading other homes in the neighborhood.

Foreclosed homes sometimes become so overgrown with weeds that they turn into ideal breeding sites for *rats*, *mice*, *ticks*, *wild animals*, and other pests. Stinging insects like *wasps* and *bees* also frequently become problems around these properties because they are not controlled early in the season as they would be in an occupied property.

Vacant properties can also become breeding places for huge numbers of biting *mosquitoes*. These pests breed wherever water sits for seven days or longer, including neglected bird baths, swimming pools, ponds, whirlpools, and backed-up roof gutters.

If you know about a badly neglected property near you, notify the local health department. Also let us know, because we may need to take additional protective measures to prevent these pests from invading your property.

## Serotonin & 'Locust Gangs'



Serotonin is a brain chemical linked to positive moods in people. Higher levels of this chemical, in proper balance, can produce a greater sense of well-being, as well as improve appetites, sleep, and even enhance memory and learning.

But in locusts, high serotonin levels are not desirable. According to new research reported in the journal *Science*, serotonin levels affect whether a locust lives a mostly solitary life, or becomes gregarious and joins up with other locusts to form 'gangs'—huge destructive swarms. The scientists found that swarming locusts have *three times* the amount of serotonin levels in their system as solitary locusts, and that they won't swarm if serotonin is blocked.

Locust swarms, consisting of millions to hundreds of millions of individuals, are known to devour every plant and crop in their path. Last year one devastating locust swarm in Australia was nearly four miles long.

It is hoped that this new information will lead to ways to prevent locusts from swarming.

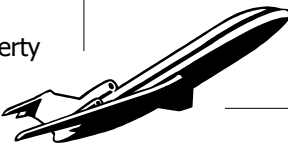
## Your Questions Answered

**Q.** Are bird strikes of aircraft common?

**A.** Over the last 17 years, the FAA reports bird strikes have caused 43 planes and helicopters (commercial and private) to crash in this country. But the actual number of bird strikes is much higher and has gone up in recent years, from 1,738 in 1990 to 7,439 in 2007. This dangerous trend is due to both an increase in the number of birds in urban environments and an increase in commercial air travel. Most of the strikes occur at low altitude during takeoffs, climbs and landings.

Airports spend millions of dollars each year trying to prevent bird strikes similar to what happened to Flight 1459 that landed on the Hudson River in January. In this case it was Canadian geese that downed the airplane; but many different birds have hit planes, including pigeons, crows, and even raptors like kestrels.

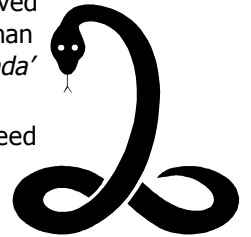
The battle to keep birds away from the air and land around airports is continuous. Airports employ a variety of methods to discourage birds, including installing nets across ponds to prevent bird landing, trapping and relocating birds, setting off explosive shells to scare them off, and using lasers to shine a green light near the birds, which mimics a predator stalking them. In addition, Sea-Tac Airport in Seattle has installed powerful new avian radar that track birds within six miles of the airport and up to 3,000 feet. Other airports are slated to receive similar bird radar systems this year.



## Monster Snake Discovered

Scientists in Columbia have unearthed the remains of the largest snake ever discovered—a prehistoric monster that weighed more than 2,500 pounds and was almost 45 feet long. The snake lived about 60 million years ago, and was 5 feet longer than the special-effects-created snake in the movie *'Anaconda'* that tried to eat Jennifer Lopez.

Snakes are cold-blooded, which means they need heat from the environment to power their metabolism. The largest snakes today live in warmer, tropical areas. Larger snakes need more warmth, and scientists believe that for a snake of this size to survive, the temperatures must have been about 10 degrees warmer than they are today.



## Louse Combs Help Detect Lice

New research shows that using a louse comb is the best way to detect a head louse infestation. Examination of hair with a louse comb is *four times more effective* than direct visual examination, and *two times faster* than examination by hand.

Most louse combs are two-sided; one side is used to untangle knots in the hair; the other side has finer teeth that trap lice and their eggs, and is especially useful for detecting a louse infestation.

**Tip:** Metal louse combs work much better than plastic louse combs. Regular combs do not work because the teeth are too far apart.