

A QUICK

REFERENCE GUIDE TO

SPRING PESTS

ORKIN



CANADA™

PESTS DON'T TAKE VACATION DAYS.

Picture this: bugs in your business. As the cold winter months melt away, the onset of warm spring weather means an increase in pest activity across the country. Thousands of insects are emerging from dormant states and looking for places to spend the spring and summer months.

To bugs, taking residence in your business is a walk in the park. Some pests wait until the spring months to strike, targeting vulnerable areas around your facility. These creatures will make their way through cracks and crevices to lay eggs, spin webs and build nests. (Say hello to your new colleagues.)

Colonizers like termites and ants are hungry to find prime locations to swarm and build colonies, potentially causing foundation damage and costly repairs. And disease-carrying mosquitoes take flight in warmer weather. With over 2,000 known species in existence around the world, there's a possibility your employees and customers could be at risk.

So, how can you help protect your property against common springtime pests? Here's how you can identify pests and help arm your business against bugs.





Pavement Ant

ANTS

WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

Ants are willing to go the distance – colonies can have massive populations with armies willing to travel far and wide for nourishment. When fertile queens are on the hunt for a nesting place, your building might be egg-xactly what they're looking for. Ants can enter businesses through even the smallest crevices, searching for food. And here are just two (of many) more reasons they can be tricky: they're resilient and have changing diet habits. Now that's food for thought.

PREVENTION TIPS



EXCLUSION LANDSCAPING SANITATION

WHERE TO LOOK

- ▶ Spaces like countertops, pantries and sinks with **proximity to food sources**
- ▶ **Areas with excess moisture** like bathrooms and basements
- ▶ **Hidden, protected places** like wall voids, under appliances and beneath floors

TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Keep areas clean and clear of debris routinely.
- ▶ Store food and liquids in airtight containers.
- ▶ Seal off entry points like small gaps under windows and doors.

MOSQUITOES

WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

These pests are itching to meet you. As warm weather rolls in, the temperature increases outside – as does the number of mosquitoes. These flying pests like to paint the town red and make their way into your facility through openings around windows and doors in search of their next meal. In addition to causing red, itchy bumps, mosquito bites can transmit diseases such as West Nile virus, malaria, and Zika virus.



Anopheles Mosquito

WHERE TO LOOK

- ▶ **Areas prone to collecting or draining water** such as birdbaths and water spouts
- ▶ **Vegetation** like tall grasses or densely wooded areas
- ▶ **Bodies of water** such as marshes, lakes and swamps

TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Eliminate visible standing water immediately, as it can turn into a prime breeding ground.
- ▶ Install screens on windows and seal off spaces under doors.
- ▶ Maintain plants and nearby vegetation routinely.

PREVENTION TIPS



EXCLUSION LANDSCAPING



Wolf Spider

SPIDERS

WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

When insects emerge from their dormant states and start reappearing indoors, your building becomes a prime destination for hungry spiders. Spiders can be found lurking in any corner of your business, making webs and laying eggs. There's nothing itty-bitsy about these pests: spiders can make a big deal of taking up residence at your business – no strings attached.

PREVENTION TIPS



EXCLUSION LANDSCAPING SANITATION

WHERE TO LOOK

- ▶ Attics, basements, closets and other **dark, dank places**
- ▶ **Window screens, small crawlspaces and crevices**
- ▶ Indoor **plants and firewood**

TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Clean and dust inside your building routinely.
- ▶ Seal off entry points like gaps under windowsills and doors.
- ▶ Dispose of loose boxes and clutter in storage areas.
- ▶ Remove outdoor debris, such as wood piles, grass clippings and leaves.



Subterranean Termite

TERMITES

WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

A termite's motto? All bark AND all bite. To termites, your building is always on the menu. But warmer weather is ideal for building colonies and invading your space. These "silent destroyers" travel in swarms and have the power to inflict serious damage resulting in costly repairs that will leave you stumped. Most termites fall into three categories – dampwood, subterranean, and drywood – and, depending on the type found at your facility, can feed on everything from furniture to drywall. "Wood" you believe it?

PREVENTION TIPS



EXCLUSION LANDSCAPING INSPECTION

WHERE TO LOOK

- ▶ Fallen trees and **decaying lumber or wood materials**
- ▶ In **crawlspace or cracks in walls** and in the foundation of your building
- ▶ **Moist soil**

TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Eliminate termite food sources by removing scrap wood and tree debris.
- ▶ Prevent and reduce excess moisture from sites like pipes, basements and gutters.
- ▶ Inspect decks, fences and the foundation of your building.
- ▶ Avoid wood-to-soil contact by leaving a gap under fencing and storing lumber away from your property.

OCCASIONAL INVADERS

WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

Here's hoping these pests make like trees and leave. With plants and flowers back in bloom, spring is the perfect time for invaders to move back into your space. Depending on your region of the country, you may expect to see various pests, from sow bugs to box elder bugs. On the hunt for food, these occasional invaders creep and crawl inside through small crevices and entry points. They can be found lurking in damp areas or near leaves and plant debris. While non-threatening, a sighting of even one of these pests could indicate an infestation on the premises. Seeing one of these pests may leave you shell-shocked.



Box Elder Bug

WHERE TO LOOK

- ▶ **Areas with excess moisture** such as basements, garages and sinks
- ▶ **Small gaps** under windows and doors
- ▶ **Near potted plants and bushes**

TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Reduce moisture by waterproofing damp areas.
- ▶ Install window screens and seal cracks and gaps.
- ▶ Keep landscaping neatly trimmed and away from the structure.
- ▶ Dispose of wood and plant debris.

PREVENTION TIPS



EXCLUSION LANDSCAPING INSPECTION

PREVENTION TIPS KEY



EXCLUSION

- ✓ Install door sweeps, weather stripping and window screens.
- ✓ Seal cracks and crevices around doors, windows and walls.
- ✓ Inspect for entry points around the exterior of the building to obstruct crawling pests.



SANITATION

- ✓ Thoroughly clean, dust, sweep and mop on a regular basis.
- ✓ Get rid of any clutter like cardboard boxes that offer shelter for pests.
- ✓ Remove food and water spills immediately.
- ✓ Store all food and garbage properly in sealed containers.
- ✓ Repair and safeguard leaking faucets, water pipes and HVAC units.



LANDSCAPING

- ✓ Eliminate standing water and clean gutters and waterspouts.
- ✓ Trim overgrown branches, plants and bushes.
- ✓ Remove excessive plant cover and wood mulch.
- ✓ Keep plants/vegetation from touching your building.



INSPECTION

- ✓ Inspect your building's exterior and interior for signs of a pest infestation or potential entry points.
- ✓ Report any findings to your pest management professional.

In the battle against bugs, there's power in knowing your enemy. So, as you're prepping your business for the warmer months, we hope this pest control guide springs to mind. (Sun's out, bugs out.)

An effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy requires vigilance year-round, so get smart and stop repulsive pests from plaguing your profits. If you're interested in learning how to put up a stronger defense at your facility or would like a professional site inspection and recommended IPM plan with no obligation whatsoever, visit orkincanada.ca to learn more about our services and request a free consultation..

Tell Bugs to Take a Hike.



Learn more about our IPM service at orkincanada.ca
or call 1-800-800-6754.