



CLOSE TO HOME

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BedBugs BACK!



**The woods are lovely,
dark and deep. But I
have promises to
keep... R. Frost**

More Poetry at:
fraysierhome.com

Winter Insects



Indian Meal Moth



Confused Flour
Beetle

I grew up hearing it, too. "Sleep tight. Don't let the bedbugs bite!" No, that was not written by Robert Frost. This anonymous lyric was likely written by a concerned mother. There was a time when bedbugs were very common. Those days are coming back.

Most Americans under 70 years old have never seen a bedbug. Most exterminators, prior to the turn of the millenia, had never seen them either.



Now
You
Have!

So why the resurgence in recent years?

Bedbugs were common prior to World War II. With better hygiene and the widespread use of DDT, the bedbug was all but eliminated in

the states. However, they survived and even thrived in overseas locations. It was just a matter of time before these hitchhikers would make it back to our shores.

DDT has gone the way of leaded gasoline. In it's wake are materials much less effective in pest/health management.

Consider some facts about the resilient bedbug:

- A) Similar to the flea, it requires a blood meal for growth and development.
- B) It can live over one year without a blood meal!

C) Favorite harborage sites include mattresses, box springs, bed framing, night stands, baseboard cracks, under carpeting, curtain rods, picture framing—you get the idea. Anywhere in a bedroom.

Pesticide usage is very limited on mattresses and box springs—their prime hiding places. So bedbugs have the clear advantage once in.

How do you get them?

Being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Hotel rooms seem to be the most common place to bring them home. Whenever traveling, you should check mattress and box spring edges, folds, staples, etc. for signs like this:



Brown stains in these areas are also a sign. Move along if you find them!

Just in the past month we have dealt with an infestation that began in a hotel room in Niagara Falls.



Moral to the story? When in a strange bed, look before you sleep!



THE HOME INSPECTOR'S JOURNAL!

THE ODD - THE SCARY - THE HUMOROUS

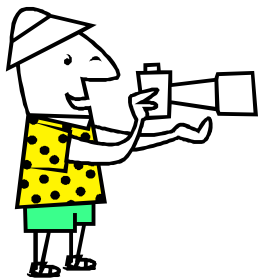
I recently received an email from my insurance agent describing a near disaster he avoided with some quick thinking.

While preparing breakfast one morning the kitchen lights went out. At the same

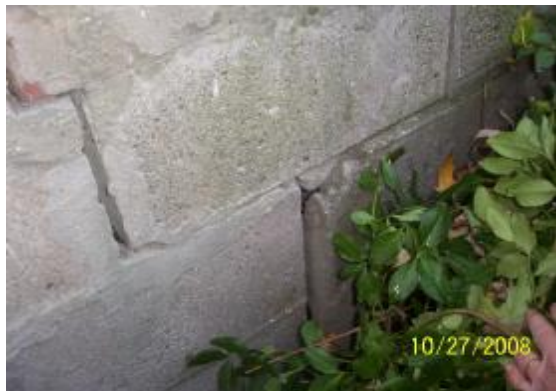
time his wife complained of a burning smell. Just then, he heard a popping noise and found flames coming out of a wall socket in the bedroom. He ran downstairs and got the fire extinguisher and was able to put out the fire. The fire department then came and

made sure the fire was completely out. The fire was caused by aluminum wiring used in lighting circuits. Houses built between 1965 and 1970 are at risk. Have your house inspected!





From the Field



Shifting Garage Foundation



Termite Damage to basement pegboard



Fraysier Home Inspections

CastleGuard Pest Management

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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE!

Q: We found a large hornets nest in a tree in our back yard. Are there still hornets in there? Can we save it to show friends?



A: A question I have recently asked! This is a

Thanksgiving day picture of the largest nest I saw all year—at my in-laws. The good news is that most of the hornets die in the Fall. The bad news is that some fertile females will survive the winter, holed up in attics, garages, tree stumps, and old nests. They appear dead but when brought back into warmth, will fly again. So, it is certainly safe to remove the nest on a cold day. What you don't remove, winter weather will.

I would not bring a nest like this into a warm area, though. Show and tell should

take place outside!

Q: We have a stone wall around our swimming pool and there are dozens of chipmunks living there. What works best to control them?

A: Let me start by warning readers that this answer is not for those that find chipmunks cute! This is for the desperate homeowner that is tired of chipmunk damage.

Chipmunks are prevalent around stone walls, landscaped areas, and front stoops. When living under a front stoop, it is not unusual for Chipmunks to find a way into the basement. They can be quite destructive and messy



ASK JOHN!

once inside.

Rodent baits are largely ineffective for chipmunks. Trapping is effective, but requires daily maintenance. Water is an enemy of the chipmunk, as anyone with an in ground pool can attest. They fall in easily and can't get out. I've been told an effective trapping method is to fill a large tub with water, cover the water surface with sun-

flower seeds, and put a ramp up the side with seeds along the path.

Again, only for the stout hearted. No complaints, please!

Consider some benefits of being a quarterly service customer of CastleGuard!

1) Winter Services: Who is checking places like your attic, garage, pantry, for pests like flour beetles, moths, mice, and even bats to name a few? Quarterly service is a **Castle Guard!**

2) Quarterly customers can exchange one pest service for a partial home inspection! This is the advantage of having a licensed home inspector as your exterminator. **Now that's a deal!**

