

# ALCON SERVICES, INC.

## WINTER PEST CONTROL TIPS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 31, 2009

### Special Points of Interest:

Exclusion Techniques - Critter Proof your home  
Rodents Rampage - What you should know  
Reptile Roundup - How to safe guard your home and property  
Spider Security - Spider proof your home  
General Pest Control - Safeguard your home

### FALL & WINTER HOME TIPS

Now is the time of year to inspect your home for possible intruders and potential access points.

Did you know that a thumb size hole is all a rat needs to enter your home, and a mouse only needs a pinkie size hole to enjoy the benefits of your home?

The best way to prevent these pesky critters from intruding is to perform a comprehensive inspection and seal any access points.

Proof your home with-

out pesticides by performing an inspection and using proper exclusionary techniques.

If necessary we can use pesticides and/or traps to rid your home of existing pesky critters who have already set up home.

Rats have become more and more of a problem especially in metropolitan areas.

Squirrels can cause as much damage as rats in fact sometimes even more. Eating their way

through wires etc.

Raccoons and Possums are also looking for food and shelter.

Roaches are a common pest that seeks comfort in your home.

Check for access points both inside and outside.

Let's keep these pesky critters from using your home as a five star hotel.



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### EMAIL SPECIAL— OFFER EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2010

When you book your next appointment please tell the technician that you read this newsletter and you will receive a 10% discount

In our quest to provide the best possible customer service, we are now set up to send reminders via email. Please let us know if you want your reminders sent via email Vs. Post Card.

Alcon Services mission is to provide you with the best possible service at a competitive price. We encourage you to send us any suggestions you may have to meet that end.

## ALCON SERVICES, INC. WINTER PEST CONTROL TIPS

### EXCLUSION TECHNIQUES

Exclusion is by far the best method for controlling rodents in and around your home. However once you realize you have a rodent problem, or suspect you have rats or mice, it should be dealt with quickly in order to contain the problem.

Fully inspect home and property to pin point pest issues.

Identify not only the

pest, but the cause of the problem.

Check wood to soil contacts, moisture problem, structural defects etc.

Think Exclusion! Go outside your home and look for any openings larger than a quarter, fascia boards, soffits, garage doors, air conditioning, and gas lines. Look around all doors windows, and the roofline, if

there is a hole bigger than your thumb then a rat can gain entrance. If they can get their nose into a hole, both rats and squirrels will make short work of making it large enough to get their entire body in your home.

If you are unsure please call us for a free estimate to provide exclusion services.

### BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Being a good neighbor is just a matter of thinking about not only your property but your immediate neighbors.

Things to think about if you are going to treat your home for rodents.

Baits, Snap traps, and Glue boards are a hazard to children and pets.

Be a good neighbor by performing a clean up. Do not leave piles of wood that can get wet.

Remember to remove and dispose of used traps etc.

Do not leave debris or open water containers around your property.

Don't bait if dogs or cats

are present.

Snap traps are dangerous to children and pets.

*“What is attracting rodents to your home or property?”*

### REPTILE ROUNDUP



Depending on where you live, snakes can also be a problem. There are numerous ways to snake proof your home.

1. Exclusion
2. Pesticides
3. Traps
4. Fencing

Snake proofing your home

and property can be easily accomplished.

There are numerous options for preventing snakes from entering protected areas.

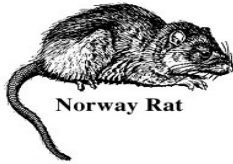
Shielding your garden, patio, pool and areas where children play. The vast majority of snakes in the Dallas Fort Worth area are non venomous. A few exceptions are:

- Copperhead
- Cottonmouth

- Western Diamondback
- Timber Rattlesnake
- Pygmy Rattlesnake
- Texas Coral Snake
- Massasagua

Other reptiles to look for are lizards and geckos.

These little critters actually consume spiders and other insects so they (in moderation) are good to have around.



Norway Rat

## RODENT RAMPAGE

Even though it is not a pleasant subject let us talk about the most common pest problem that we have in the fall and winter.

Unfortunately, it is RATS, and people tend not to want to think about them, and in our experience, people just don't like rats.

They think it is better to have mice, or squirrels or some other problem, just not RATS, anything but RATS. However, RATS is what most people have. Now let us talk

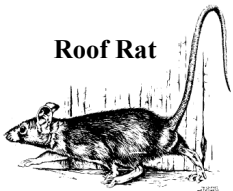
about what you can do to prevent this common household pest problem.

If you are hearing noises in your attic, or walls, you should probably have it checked out by a professional. The most important thing we tell our customers is to have your home inspected every September or October to determine if you have a problem, and to treat for rodents before it becomes a serious problem.

Now is the time to start

thinking about Rodent Control, Squirrel abatement, and other varmints that may be in and around your home and yard. The most common fall and winter problem we have in North Texas are rodents in the attic, garage, living areas, and out buildings.

Controlling rodents is much easier before they set up permanent residence in your home. Exterior perimeter bait stations are very effective, and help prevent rodents from getting into your home.



Roof Rat

## RODENT RAMPAGE (CONT)

If you believe you have a rodent problem it is generally because you:

- See these critters in or around your home
- See something scampering along the fence or overhead wires
- You have a feeling of not knowing what you saw, but you thought you saw something out of the corner of your eye.
- Your dogs may be

scratching or sniffing, or just plain looking worried.

- You hear noises in the attic or walls.
- You identify the problem by seeing droppings, or evidence of damage.

Inspect your home thoroughly. Most people will not or cannot inspect properly, which is why it is best to have a pest control professional inspect your premises for you.

We will get up in the attic, where it is usually very hot and filled with all kinds of critters, and what not. Inspections are tedious, but we are familiar with what rodent problems to look for. However if you want to perform this inspection yourself, start in the garage, and attic. Look for:

- Rodent droppings
- Signs of rodent damage
- Tunneling
- Nests, etc.

*“Your dogs may be scratching or sniffing, or just plain looking worried”*

## SPIDER SECURITY

*Little Miss Muffett  
sat on a tuffett,  
Eating her curds  
and whey;  
Along came a  
spider and sat down  
beside her  
And frightened  
Miss Muffett away.*

A simple nursery rhyme about a fictitious little girl? No in fact Miss Muffett was actually the stepdaughter of Dr Thomas Muffett, a 16th century entomologist. The legend goes that Dr Muffett would mash up spiders and feed them to his stepdaughter as a remedy for the common cold. Is it any wonder she was afraid of spiders?

Although spiders are often unpopular, the venom of most

species is not very toxic to humans, usually resulting in no more than a slight swelling, inflammation, or itching sensation. Most spiders fangs are too small or weak to puncture human skin. Spiders usually will not attempt to bite unless accidentally trapped against the skin or grasped. Spiders are beneficial predators that reduce pest populations (flies, crickets, mites, etc.) in and around homes, yards, gardens, and crops. ale





**ALCON SERVICES,  
INC.**

**PHONE: 214-390-4100**  
**FAX: 214-446-6959**  
**E-MAIL: info@alconservices.com**

**Alcon Professionals provide quality and reliable services. Please call us for a free quote, most services carry a 90 day warranty. No contract required.**

We encourage you to visit our web site. We specialize in the prevention and control of subterranean termites, pest control, rodent and reptile control.

We are family owned and operated and serve the Dallas, Denton, and Collin county areas. We offer a free phone consultation and same day service to our residential customers.

We will custom design our service programs to address your individual needs. Our number one priority is our customers, their families, their pets, and the environment. Please call us today about our **free**, no hassle inspection.

- Texas Structural Pest Control License TPCL 11038
- Member Greater Dallas BBB
- Family owned and operated
- No annual contracts
- Low odor pesticides
- Low dosage applications
- Non-toxic products upon request
- Interior and exterior treatments
- Yard control
- Prompt, professional service
- Licensed and insured for your protection
- Exclusion Services



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