

Rottler Report

A Seasonal Publication from



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Seven Reasons to Continue Pest Control in the Winter



You've got mail!

We are always looking for better, more efficient ways of communicating with our customers.

We are collecting e-mail addresses from our customers so we can send information about your program or any pests that are troubling you.

Rottler will NEVER sell or share your information and we will only send information occasionally when there is news we think will interest you!

Help us go green. After we build our database, we will offer e-newsletters. Call our office at 314.426.6100 to add your e-mail address to your Rottler account.

With all the snow and ice the St. Louis area has had, winter-time pest control may be the last thing on your mind. But don't be fooled by thinking all the pests have frozen and died!

You might think winter is a time when nature takes a rest, but things are not always as they seem. In the world of pest control, there is still a lot of work to do. Pests such as Black Widows and other spiders, ants, cockroaches, termites, bed bugs, fleas, rats, mice and the like, may slow down a bit, but they don't go away. In fact, they continue feeding, growing and multiplying, often in the warmth and comfort of our homes. Even outdoors some insect pests, such as Argentine Ants and some rodents, like gophers and rats, continue their activities. Cutting your pest control service during the winter season as a cost-saving measure gives pests a head start for the spring. Here are 7 reasons to continue your pest control service through the winter.

1. Pests living inside the walls of your home are not affected by the cold temperatures outdoors.
2. Termites, carpenter ants, cockroaches, earwigs, and many other insects can thrive indoors as the weather is always pleasant inside!
3. Attics provide shelter to other insects such as wasps and spiders, as they try to escape the cold.
4. Rodents can find their way into your home if all entry points are not sealed off.



5. When we perform a meticulous inspection of your home, inside and out, we ensure that no pest related issues are present and identify any conditions that might increase the risk of future pest problems.
6. Inspecting and/or treating entry points like doors, windows, and peepholes provide lasting protection and ready your home for the emergence of pests in spring.
7. When we remove spider webs, egg cases, wasp nests, and dirt dauber nests, we prevent them from reemerging when the weather warms.

Remember, invasive pests want to be indoors during the winter for the same reasons you do! It is important to perform a comprehensive winter pest control treatment to insure that your home is protected year-round.

Call us today to check your attic, crawlspace or basement and prevent pest problems before they start!



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The Customer Speaks

from the president Bed Bug Crisis

Rottler has been diligent in finding the source of our squirrel problem. We have not had a service in years that has worked so hard to please the customer and provide totally excellent service.
- John & Joanna
Spanish Lake, MO

We feel like we know the world of bugs and critters much more thoroughly after our technician has been to our house. We never hesitate recommending Rottler to our friends and family.
- Ronald & Mary Ann
Ladue, MO

Between our previous home in Kirkwood and this new home, we have never had a technician spend so much time on the property. Very professional and made us feel that the price that we are paying is justified! Please continue to keep the bar of standard high!
- Bill & Lindsey
Glen Carbon, IL

Coming Soon to Rottler...



**Bed Bug
Detection Dogs!**

Someone asked me recently if there really is a bed bug crisis in this country or if it's a crisis created by the media. The truth is that bed bugs are a growing problem across the country and not just in homes. Theaters, stores and other businesses have been infested as well.



Mike Rottler,
President

The thought of bed bugs may be enough to make you cringe, but an actual infestation can bring on anxiety and fear, not to mention bites. There are several measures you can take to prevent bed bugs, one of which also makes our job easier: mattress encasements on all of the beds in your home. Once a mattress is encased, a key location where most infestations are found is eliminated. If these pests can't infest a mattress, they will move to locations that are much easier to search such as headboards, nightstands, picture frames, etc.

A mattress encasement is a durable sleeve that protects your mattress. Once the cover

is zipped closed, bed bugs cannot get in or out. And, if they are sealed inside, they cannot bite through the material.

When dealing with bed bugs, it is important to eliminate hiding options. In addition to mattresses, bedbug encasements are available for box springs and pillows. Once you encase all of these, you have removed them as hiding places.



Mattress encasements are most effective when they are installed by professionals.

Call us today for a FREE bed bug inspection and estimate for mattress encasements.

Have you signed up for FastPay yet?

Now you can make fast and convenient automatic electronic payments – no more checks to write, no more stamps to buy... never miss a payment again. Sign up today and we'll take \$10 off the price of your next scheduled service! Visit rottler.com and click on FastPay to get started.

FastPay

We want more customers like you!

Refer a friend to Rottler and if they become a program customer, we will give BOTH of you a \$25 credit toward your next service visit! Refer as many



people as you like, there's no limit to the amount you can earn! Complete our customer referral form online at rottler.com or call our office today. Happy referring!

Moles & other lawn rodents wreak havoc on St. Louis lawns

Moles and other lawn rodents can quickly destroy what would be a beautiful, healthy lawn in the St. Louis area. Lawn rodents burrow into the root systems of shrubs and trees, causing stress to the plants. Mainly, however, lawn rodents eat the stems and blades of grass and create unsightly runways in your lawn.

Lawn rodents love lawns containing abundant amounts of vegetation and debris to hide under and build their nests. If you keep your garden weeded, avoid planting dense ground covers such as creeping junipers, and keep your lawn mowed, you're less likely to have to worry about these pests.

Because of their sheer numbers – reproducing 6 to 9 times per year, with 6 to 9 young in each litter – and

their tendency to nest under patios, porches and in mulch beds, lawn rodents can be quite damaging to your property.

Mole tunnels are also unsightly on lawns and can be disruptive to the root systems of garden plants. Moles lurk in their subterranean fortresses throughout the year. Their favorite food is earthworms and in healthy lawns, earthworms aerate the soil and keep it looking healthy. "It's a double edged sword – the healthier the lawn, the increased chance you'll have mole problems," explains Mike Rottler.

Moles produce two types of tunnels, or "runways" in your yard. One runway runs just beneath the surface. These are feeding tunnels and appear as raised ridges running across your



lawn. The second type of runway runs deeper and enables the moles to unite the feeding tunnels into a network. It is the soil excavated from the deep tunnels that homeowners find on their lawns, piled up in mounds that resemble little volcanoes.

Call Rottler today if you suspect moles or lawn rodents on your property!

★ Rottler Super Stars ★



Jeff Vogelsang has been a Residential Service Technician since 2002. Jeff lives in Wentzville with his wife Alicia, their daughter Brooke, son Gabriel, and two dogs: Snoop Dog and Tippie. They are planning a Disney Cruise this summer.



Kevin Neaveill began his career as a Rottler Service Technician back in April 2006. He lives in St. Peters with his girlfriend Tonya and their children Seth, Sean, and Mackenzie. He serves his country in the United States Army Reserves.



Keith Pritchett has held several positions during his 18 years with Rottler Pest & Lawn Solutions and currently he is a Lawn Care Inspector. He enjoys watching sports, working out, and traveling. He was recently named Salesman of the Year for 2010.



Steve Sides has been a Rottler Inspector for one year, but he has 23 years experience in pest control. He lives in Ballwin with his wife Anna and their miniature pincer Yadi. In his spare time, Steve likes to play golf, bowl, and collect baseball cards.



Dana Corder joined Rottler in 2007 as an Accounts Receivable Representative. Originally from Texas, she now lives in O'Fallon, MO with her husband Craig, sons Joshua and David, Catzilla (a cat of course) and Oliver the dog. Dana enjoys reading and scrapbooking.



Bryan Rachow joined Rottler in 2009 as a Service Technician and now works in Ellisville. He lives in Florissant with his wife Kristen, their dog Coco and cat Sassy. Bryan likes playing softball and bowling.





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Give us a yell!

ST. LOUIS – ST. CHARLES – JEFFERSON COUNTY
 WESTERN ILLINOIS – COLUMBIA, MO



ask jay...

featuring advice from our staff entomologist, Jay Everitt

Have a pest question for Jay?
 Visit our pest library at rottler.com
 and submit your question online.

What's that Scratchin' Noise?

You settle in for a good night's sleep and are just dozing off when you hear it. You wake up and listen. There it goes again! Something's in the attic!

Wildlife like raccoons, squirrels, and rodents take up residence in attics during the winter to shield themselves from the bitter cold. Some hibernate, but others come and go as they please through openings in the attic. They can disrupt insulation, gnaw on wood and worse, prepare nests for spring babies! They come in through holes in the wood fascia, soffits, siding or roof of your home or business.

All rodents such as squirrels, rats and mice gnaw. Their front teeth continue to grow throughout their lifetime, so wearing their teeth down is a biological necessity. Unfortunately, rodents gnawing or chewing off insulation from power lines in attics and walls create a very serious fire hazard.

Like domestic dogs and cats, wildlife are also hosts to fleas, ticks, mites, lice and other parasites. The longer an unwanted animal lives in your home, the greater the chance that a parasite will migrate into the living quarters. When an animal dies, the parasites leave the host animal and seek a new host. The potential for parasite problems increases depending on the number of animals and how long they live in or under your home.

Attic inspections by your Rottler technician are included in your Signature pest control program. If you currently aren't signed up for our Signature service, you might want to give us a call. This looks like a bad year for four-legged pests.

What can YOU do?

Seal any vents or holes that could allow wildlife entrance into your attic – but be sure not to seal the critters inside your attic!



**Call us today for wildlife solutions
 314-426-6100**

