

Rottler Report

A Seasonal Publication from



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Prevent pesky ants



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.

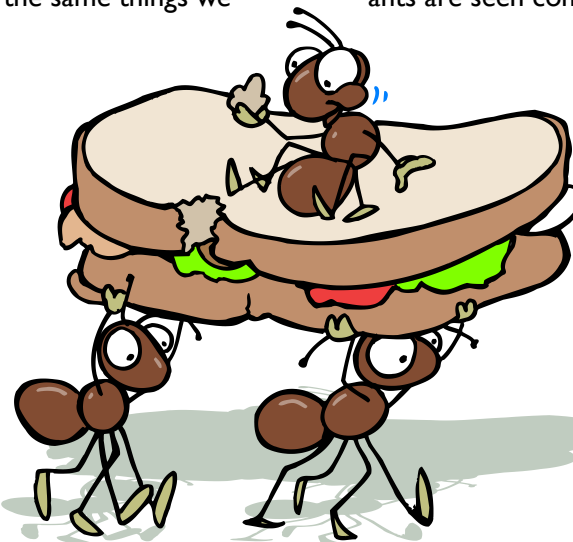
Ants and picnics seem to go together like salt and pepper. That's because ants are attracted to many of the same things we like such as sweets and other foods. Ants are a common problem in the St. Louis area and have replaced cockroaches as the most troublesome pest in the U.S.

More than 20 different species of ants may be living around your home, just waiting for the perfect opening to enter and feast on sweet treats in your home. It is estimated that there are about 20,000 different ant species throughout the world. They are social insects, which means they live in large colonies some consisting of millions of ants.

If you watch ants for any length of time you will see that they communicate with other ants by touching their antennae.

There are several things you can do to prevent ant problems.

- To keep ants out of your kitchen, tightly seal any sugar-based products and immediately wipe up any spills of sweets, like sugar or honey.



- Many species can nest indoors or outdoors, so it is very important that ants be excluded from your home. If ants are seen coming into the building from the outside, seal up holes, cracks and crevices in the structure. Use caulking and weatherstripping to seal entry points around doors and windows, plumbing outlets and along the bottom of siding and on top of foundations.
- Remove and repair any wood damaged by water.
- Trim back vegetation and landscaping, so it does not contact your home and eliminate possible routes of entry into the structure.
- Wash surfaces where you've seen ants with soapy water.
- When food is found, an ant lays down a scent as it returns to the nest, so other ants can pick up the scent and follow the trail to the food.

Killing ants with a do-it-yourself pest control product kills the ants you see but, unless the nest is located and treated, it is likely that the ants will continue to be a problem. Our technicians have many tools available to prevent ants from entering your home and eliminating the nest.

Ants? Call us today!



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The Customer Speaks

from the president

K-9 Detection

New Team Members Use Their Nose to Find Bed Bugs



Mike Rottler, President

In March, we “hired” two detection dogs to help us pinpoint areas of bed bug infestation. Fern, a shepherd mix, and Barney, a beagle/basset hound mix, have joined the Rottler team along with their handlers Dan and Jenn. Together, the dog and handler make up a team, which is certified by the National Entomology Scent Detection Canine Association (NESDCA).

Our dogs were trained at two of the nation’s leading detection dog training facilities. For months, both dogs were given multiple items in succession to smell. When they came to the target odor (bed bugs in this case), they were rewarded with a treat. Eventually, Fern and Barney learned to associate the odor of bed bugs with the reward.

The dog’s nose is a cutting-edge technology and the latest trend in the detection of bed bugs. With their sophisticated sense of smell, our dogs are able to quickly and accurately find bed bugs. Because dogs have 20 to 40 times the number of nasal receptor cells than humans do, they can detect the tiniest levels of odors, even a few parts per billion. The dogs need approximately 2 minutes to check a room that can take a human up to 30 minutes to inspect.

Dogs have been very effective in the detection of a wide variety of items including but not limited to drugs, bombs, fugitives, cadavers, mold, and termites.

We welcome these two ambitious canines to the Rottler team!



Fern



Barney

We are so happy with our technician, Scott. He does a very thorough job each and every time he is here. He takes whatever time we need to answer my questions and has always had the knowledge to give us a solution.

- Daniel & Michele,
Cedar Hill, MO

Tim Schulte is our technician he is always on time, professional and well mannered. Our daughter refers to Tim as “Billy the Exterminator” after the guy on TV who gets rid of the spiders!!!

- Bryan & Christina
O’Fallon, MO

Will Belcher has been very informative about what he is doing and what we should do in helping reduce the pest situation in the home. I am very pleased with the service and I would recommend Rottler to anyone who needs any type of pest or lawn service.

- Anthony
Spanish Lake, MO

Nathan was very professional. He called to set up my appointment and then called to let me know what time he would be here. Took his shoes off when entering the house. Turned lights off when finished with a room. Very courteous.

- Gary & Barbara
Lake St. Louis, MO

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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

Customers Wanted

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 a rottler.com or call our office today.

Happy referring!



Lady Bugs: Are they really “good bugs”?

When asked to describe what we commonly call “lady beetles”, most people might say, “Cute. Good bugs. Harmless. Beneficial.” But ask anyone who wakes up on a spring morning to find hundreds of lady beetles in their living room and you’ll get a different answer.

Officially known as Asian Lady Beetles, they actually live outside where they dwell in trees and fields, preying on aphids and scale insects. Swarms of lady beetles typically fly to buildings in September through November.

They tend to congregate on the sunnier, southwest sides of buildings illuminated by afternoon sun. Once the beetles alight on buildings, they

seek out crevices and protected places to spend the winter and end up indoors.

As temperatures warm in late winter/early spring, the beetles become active once again. This usually occurs first on the sunnier, southwest side of the building. As awakening beetles attempt to escape to the outdoors, some inadvertently wander inward, emerging from behind baseboards, walls, attics, suspended ceilings, etc. Since lady beetles are attracted to light, they are often seen around windows and light fixtures.

Asian lady beetles have few natural enemies and generally do not injure humans. They are mainly a nuisance. If you find these beetles in your home, the easiest way to remove them is with a vacuum cleaner.



Spring tips for a healthy lawn

This past winter was especially hard on lawns across the area with increased moisture from snow and rain. Like our homes, spring cleaning of our lawns is also a good idea. It’s not that daunting of a task and can probably be done in an afternoon.

Here are some tips:

- When you can walk in your yard without leaving deep, damp footprints, it’s time to get to work.
- Pick up any debris that showed up over the winter. Grass can’t grow under debris.
- RAKE. Spring raking picks up any leaves you may have missed in the fall. Wet leaves that have been soaking all winter act as a hotbed of bacterial and fungal activity. Raking also helps remove some of the thatch buildup in your lawn.
- Have your lawn mower tuned up and the blade sharpened!
- Pull any weeds that you see growing.

Call Rottler for expert lawn care service and your yard will be the envy of the neighborhood!

Rottler Super Stars



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



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.



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.



Craig Heidger has been a Rottler Inspector since December 2010. He lives in St. Peters with his girlfriend Kara, his son Keith and her children Dustin and Lacy. Craig enjoys watching St. Louis sports and working in his yard.





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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.

Carpenter Bees

If you notice large black and yellow bees hovering around the outside of your home, they are likely Carpenter Bees searching for mates and favorable sites to build their nests. Male carpenter bees are quite aggressive often hovering in front of people, but they lack stingers and are quite harmless. Females can inflict a painful sting, but seldom do so unless they are handled or bothered. Sometimes mistaken for Bumble Bees, but they differ in that the upper surface of their abdomen is bare and shiny black.

Carpenter bees tunnel into unpainted or weathered softwoods, especially redwood, cedar, cypress and pine wood to lay their eggs. Painted or pressure-treated wood is much less susceptible to attack. Common nesting sites include eaves, window trim, fascia boards, siding, wooden shakes, decks and outdoor furniture.

They bore perfectly round holes into wood and enter to lay their eggs.



If you see coarse sawdust the color of fresh cut wood on the ground below the entry hole, you're likely to have a Carpenter bee problem.

Paper Wasps

Another stinging insect that you might see this spring is the Paper Wasp. Named to describe the nests which look like gray paper, paper wasps commonly build nests from a single stalk around the home under eaves.

Paper wasps are slender, narrow-waisted wasps about 3/4 to 1 inch long, with smoky black wings that are folded lengthwise when at rest.

Adults forage for nectar, their source of energy, and for caterpillars to feed their larvae (young). They are natural enemies of many garden insect pests, so are considered to be beneficial insects.

Paper wasps may be more inclined to build nests in attics than yellow jackets or hornets because their nests lack an outer covering.

When disturbed, they will attack and inflict painful stings, so be careful and don't try to remove a nest. If you are stung, apply meat tenderizer to the wound. If the sting is not deep, this will break down the components of the sting fluid, reducing pain.



Rottler's Signature pest control program covers both carpenter bees and paper wasps.
Call us if you see them around your home and we will take care of them for you.