

# Pest Connection

*Tips For a Pest-Free Home*

VOL 16 ISSUE 9



## Catch Winter Pests in the Act

### Understand Why Mice are Entering Your Home

As soon as the temperature drops, pests are making their way for your warm, cozy home. Fall is high season for mice to seek shelter in your home. They might seem like a somewhat harmless issue that you can take care of yourself with traps or other products, however, a mice infestation is a dangerous problem that should not be taken lightly.

#### **WHY MICE ARE ENTERING YOUR HOME**

An important step in preventing a large mouse population is understanding why mice are entering your home. Mice require only a tiny opening or crack to gain entry into your home and

can gnaw on the wood beams, electrical wires and insulation. They are most often looking for warmth and shelter. Once they find this inside your home, they rarely venture outside again.

#### **HOW BATZNER HELPS**

Batzner Service Professionals are highly trained to conduct a thorough inspection to find evidence of mice. There are numerous methods available (baits, traps, glueboards) to eliminate mice, but in order to prevent more mouse problems, it is important to find the places where they're getting in.

[Read full story inside]

# Batzner Remains the Name to Know for Pest Control

Batzner customers and employees both agree that Batzner is the best in the Milwaukee area. We are proud to announce that we have again been named the top pest control provider by residents of Southeast Wisconsin in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Top Choice Awards. This is our second consecutive year of winning both the Top Choice Award and a Top Workplace Award.

Readers and community members are invited to vote for their favorite business by visiting [www.jsonline.com/topchoice](http://www.jsonline.com/topchoice) to cast votes.

When the ballots are tabulated, the top two vote-getters in each of the categories are awarded a Top Choice Winner Award for first place and a Top Choice Finalist Award for second place. The Top Choice Awards recognize the best of the Milwaukee area in several categories ranging from dining and entertainment to home and professional services. The Top Workplace Award is given based solely on surveys completed by employees.

To learn more about Top Workplace Award winners and the voting process, visit [www.jsonline.com](http://www.jsonline.com)! ♦



## Featured Pest

### Avoiding Bed Bugs During Holiday Travel

The holidays inevitably leave many travelers staying away from home all across the country. Unfortunately, it's also a great opportunity to bring bed bugs home with you. Most people believe that bed bugs are only found in dirty, unkept conditions, but this is not the case. They can be found in economy motels, four star restaurants, grandma's house and everywhere in between. Here is how to be aware of bed bugs when traveling for the holidays.

#### Arriving at Your Destination

- **Bed bugs are least likely to be found in the bathroom**, so before you settle in, put your luggage there until you've had a chance to make sure the coast is clear.
- **Check the bed for signs of bed bugs.** Pull back all of the linens and check around and under the mattress and headboard. Look for little dots of blood, or black specs that look like mold or ground pepper.
- **Keep your eyes peeled for the**

**bugs themselves.** They are about the size of an apple seed and you might find them in corners or the seams of bedding. If you see any of these suspicious signs, make sure you alert someone.

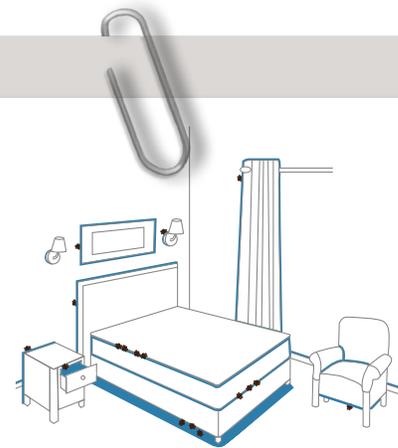
- **If you're in a hotel and you do end up moving to a new room, be sure the room is at least two floors away**, since it's a good chance that these bugs may travel through wallboards and electrical sockets.

#### During Your Stay

- **Keep your luggage off of the ground, or wrapped in plastic** for the duration of your trip. Large zip-up bags are available from luggage or travel retailers specifically for this purpose.
- **While there may not be any bed bugs in your room, the room next to yours may have them**, so taking a few simple precautions during your stay can be a great help in the long run.

#### After Your Travels

- **Heat is deadly to bed bugs.** Put items in the dryer for 30 minutes on the high heat setting, then wash with hot water, and then



Bed bugs can be found in areas all over a room. These are common places they like to hide.

dry once more to kill them. Bed bugs cannot survive in temperatures above 122 degrees.

- **Inspect and vacuum your suitcases**, and if you did invest in one of those zip-up bags, keep your luggage zipped up until it's needed again. Keep an eye out for any itching and welt-like bite marks on your skin. They normally show up in threes.

**If you experience possible activity in your home, call Batzner Pest Control immediately.** ♦

# Ask the Experts

Featuring advice from our Associate Certified Entomologists



Dave Kusnierek  
Associate Certified  
Entomologist,  
District Manager

Have a question? Reach out to us on Facebook, Twitter, or via our website!

**Q:** We had a concerned customer of Oak Creek ask us on Facebook what kind of bug is making a home for itself in the picture below.



**A:** This is in fact a spotted grapevine beetle, or also known as the spotted June beetle. Because of its close resemblance to a ladybug, it is often misidentified as one.

Typically they are found in the northern and central parts of the United States, making Wisconsin the perfect home. They tend to gravitate towards wooded areas, thickets, vineyards and gardens. Because of this, you may find their eggs in rotten wood, tree stumps, or in nearby soil.

You may be surprised by how big they are. Grapevine beetles can grow up to 1.2 inches long, which causes them to be rather slow and clumsy when flying.

Adult beetles eat the leaves and fruit of grapevines, but not to worry, they will not damage your garden or vineyard. They are not a harmful pest, unless there is a large infestation of them, which is uncommon.

So how do you make them go away? These beetles are attracted to light at night, so turn off any outdoor lighting that they may be attracted to. Because they aren't damaging to your plants or garden there is no need to treat them. Keep an eye out during July, as that is when the adults emerge.

Sincerely,

*Dave Kusnierek*

## Prevention is Key For a Pest-Free Home

### Prevent Reinfestations

Prevention is key to keeping your home pest free! Once we have eliminated an issue, it may look as though you are safe to discontinue professional pest control. Pests are smart - they often reappear when Batzner goes away.

Ongoing BAN™ treatments prevent reinfestations by utilizing targeted pest control based on the season and individual conditions.



### CATCH WINTER PESTS IN THE ACT

[Continued from cover]

Sanitation, exclusion, and population reduction are the keys to eradicating a mouse population.

Mice can be very innovative in their attempts to enter a dwelling. They will move along the outside perimeter of a building until they find an opening or crack, and then sneak right in. During your seasonal BAN visit, a Batzner Service Professional will eliminate the mice from your home and make sanitation and repair recommendations to help prevent future problems.

### TRAIL CAMS: QUICKER, ACCURATE, EFFECTIVE

In keeping with our focus of integrating innovation into our services, Batzner Service Professionals have a new tool at their disposal to help solve difficult cases of pest intrusion in commercial buildings.

We recently purchased and have put to use motion-activated trail cameras, which have already proven to be highly effective in a variety of situations, such as mice and rodent infestations. The ability to use trail cameras when necessary is poised to make our Service Team even faster, more accurate, and more effective in diagnosing and treating pest problems. Service Manager Jason Ganas explains, "The trail cams are another great way for Batzner to separate ourselves from our competition. They are very versatile, as we can use them for residential and commercial clients, and both inside and outside depending on the situation. They will be a big help on difficult jobs involving birds, bats, and rodents, and for our trapping services." ♦



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Over 70 years of legendary service because of customers like you! Thank you for making us "the name to know for pest control".



Write a **Review**

If you have been completely satisfied with Batzner's service, tell us about it! Write a review on Yelp or Google and help other people discover the leading pest control company.



Refer Your **Friends and Family**

Simply refer your friends or family to Batzner and you will receive a \$25 gift card as a thank you from us! Visit batzner.com or call for more information.



Join Our **Fast Growing** Team!

If you're interested in a career where you can make a difference in the lives of others, consider Batzner! See our current career opportunities at [batzner.com/careers](http://batzner.com/careers).

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