

Pest Connection

*Tips for a
Pest-Free
Business*

VOL 18 ISSUE 6



Ants, insects—even mice, only need an opening the size of a dime.

If They Can't Get In, They Can't Become a Pest

Pest Control Exclusion Makes a Difference

There isn't a pest in Wisconsin that can't be controlled by implementing exclusion tactics. The practice of sealing entryway points and therefore keeping pests outside is a simple premise, and an eco-friendly one too since it results in lower chemical use. Exclusion is a cornerstone of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), the pest control philosophy followed by Batzner Pest Control.

Find the Entryway

The idea behind exclusion techniques is simple. Find an opening and seal it up. The trick is finding the opening. Given that some pests can slip through openings barely discernable to the naked eye – ants, crawling insects, even mice only need an opening the size of a dime – it is a time-consuming task, and one that benefits from a professional since they are trained on where to look and what to look for. But with the proper materials and diligence, building owners can successfully implement some exclusionary solutions on their own.

Check for Wildlife Before Blocking Openings

Before starting the exclusion process, identify if issues are caused by animals that may make a bigger mess trying to get back in once they are excluded from their 'home'. For example, if wildlife such as squirrels or raccoons are getting into an attic,

and their entrance is blocked, they may cause greater damage creating a new entrance. In this case, trapping should take place to remove the offenders before sealing up the entryway.

Pest Entryways to Look For:

- Gaps between wood trim and eaves allow bats entry into attics
- Foundation cracks, including garages inside and out with careful inspection along shared inside walls
- Openings around vents, utility lines and drain pipes
- Window and door casements, door sweeps
- Loose shingles and sheathing, screen and louvered in-wall vents



Hardware cloth is a wire mesh that is used to keep animals and birds out of openings.

What to Use:

- Hardware cloth (1/4" wire mesh)
- Caulk, foam, spackle
- Sheet metal
- Concrete
- Copper mesh or **stainless** steel wool – do not use regular steel wool; it rusts and breaks down over time



Got gaps? Stuff them with stainless steel wool for a long lasting barrier.

[Read full story inside]

Breaking the Cycle of Cockroaches:

A restaurant owner resolves to permanently rid his establishment of the pest

A cockroach infestation can be disastrous for restaurant owners. A health inspection revealing an infestation can cause your restaurant to close, and a customer seeing a single pest can result in lost business. Cockroaches also happen to be one of the most resilient and difficult insects to treat in the world.



Grime and standing water provide necessities for cockroaches to thrive.

A Milwaukee restaurant owner agrees.

The restaurant owner received multiple reports of cockroach sightings at his restaurant. He had been using a pest control provider who appeared either unaware or unconcerned about the growing

roach issue. Eventually, the owner's worst nightmare occurred. During Christmas dinner, a cockroach walked across a table of 14. The family got up and walked straight out of the restaurant. The owner realized he needed to drop his service provider. He then turned to Batzner for help.

Upon the initial inspection, live roaches were discovered in the kitchen, on the service counter, and in the dish room, with evidence of cockroach activity present in other areas as well. Batzner's service team identified other issues, including standing water and debris buildup that were helping the cockroaches to survive.

Batzner Service Specialist Rob Van Willigen observed, "The previous company was largely or even only using bait. This can be ineffective, especially if they aren't mixing up the type of bait used. We implemented a different approach, placing a mix of different products and insect growth regulators, as well as a fog injection into wall voids to reach areas where the roaches hide." Using a variety of products prevents populations from building up product resistance.

These tactics, along with a thorough cleaning, and repairs such as fixing cracked floor tiles and replacing missing baseboard, set the customer on a track to being cockroach free and keeping his doors open with confidence.

Read the full case study at batzner.com/resources/case-studies

Woodpeckers

Controlling Damage from a Woodpecker's Peck

Fun to watch as they hammer away, gripping sideways on a tree trunk, woodpeckers sometimes become a nuisance. They peck at wood to establish territory, find a mate, excavate a nesting hole or to find insects, and sometimes that wood is attached to a building. They can cause substantial damage if not deterred.

Protected Species

Woodpeckers are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so it is illegal to intentionally capture, kill or disrupt these migratory birds or their nests and eggs.

Wisconsin's Most Common Woodpeckers



Downy

5.5 to 7.1" long
Smallest in U.S



Hairy

7.1-10.2" long
medium sized



Pileated

16 to 19" long
Second largest in U.S.

FAST FACTS

Diet	Feeds on a variety of insects, especially beetles, ants, caterpillars, and more. They are also fond of black oil sunflower seeds, millet, peanuts, and chunky peanut butter. Occasionally, downy woodpeckers will drink from oriole and hummingbird feeders as well.
Habitat	Woodpeckers usually peck at dead or diseased trees/limbs, but they have also been known to peck at buildings, siding, metal and air conditioners. They peck in order to find food, excavate areas for nesting, or create room for food storage. They are found mostly in or on the edge of wooded areas due to food prevalence and preference for living in or near trees. They can nest in structures, fences, poles, and sign posts. A cavity is created by the male and female to make a nest in dead limb or dead tree, usually 12-30' above ground. The cavity entrance is often surrounded by fungus or lichen, helping to camouflage site.
Prevention	Woodpecker prevention is based upon physical barriers and scare techniques. Physical barriers created in pecking areas will help get rid of woodpeckers by preventing entry. Commonly these are made of steel mesh. Noise scare techniques are also effective in some cases.

Ask the Experts

Dan Stawicki, Operations Manager

Featuring advice from our Associate Certified Entomologists

Have a question? Reach out to us on Facebook, Twitter, or at Batzner.com



Q: I have a mass of approximately 200 flies congregating on a windowsill. What are these flies called and how can you help?

A: The flies are most likely cluster flies. They are overwintering pests, with clusters ranging from as little as four flies to thousands. They are attracted to extreme ultraviolet light, so beginning in fall, these flies are seeking to live somewhere warm. Cluster flies tend to migrate towards the cracks and crevices of your home. Often they are found in the attic or exterior, it is also not uncommon for the flies to be found in the interior of your home.

Cluster flies lay their eggs in the soil. Once the larva hatches, they seek their way to earthworms and feed off them until the larva is ready to leave. It takes about two weeks to develop into an adult.

Cluster flies do not carry diseases that are harmful to humans. They are just a nuisance to us due to their long lifespan - most flies do not live to be more than three months. However, cluster flies are known to live up to two or more years. After they die off, beetles and other larger insects feed off of

the cluster flies. This may cause a secondary infestation if the flies die off inside.



PREVENTION

A simple way to help prevent these flies from hibernating in your home is to schedule a professional pesticide treatment. To prevent overwintering, the treatment must take place before fall. An experienced service specialist will apply treatment to the cracks and crevices on the building's exterior as well as the interior, focusing on the south, east, and west sides of the building because they tend to get the most sun. Homeowners should also caulk all of the visible interior and exterior cracks and crevices.

Sincerely,

[Continued from front page]

What if pest issues persist after exclusion is completed?

Exclusion has been applied to every crack and crevice, yet a restaurant still has roaches, or ants still make their way into a home. What's going on? Exclusion tactics come close to being the ideal pest control solution, but they can't solve every problem.

Deliveries, on-person, luggage, carryalls - pests such as cockroaches are known to hitch a ride in boxes, vehicles, bags of laundered linens, etc. In the case of commercial businesses that still see pest activity after thorough exclusion techniques have been applied, along with routine pest control, the answer may be hidden in deliveries such as parts, food supplies, and linens. Homeowners can experience pest invasions from delivered items; in purses, bags and luggage, and on bodies both human and pet - pests can be hitchhikers we are unknowingly transporting.

Overhead and entryway doors, windows left open - It only takes moments for mice to dart into a warehouse via an open overhead door, or creepy crawlies to slither in through windows not evenly closed or entry doors left slightly ajar. Shut doors and windows tightly and minimize the amount of time they are left open. Ensure doors are properly installed with sweeps and window screens free of gaps and holes.

Persistent Issues May Require Professional Pest Control

There is a lot that can be done by a building owner in terms of exclusion. But sometimes it isn't enough, and requires the trained eye of a professional to spot a well-hidden entrance point. Batzner offers some exclusion services that can be added to your general pest control service.

Do not underestimate the inclusion of exclusion in your pest control program.

2019 Food Safety & Pest Management Seminar

175 Clients Attended Batzner's 28th Annual Food Safety and Pest Management Seminar



Batzner's 29th Annual Food Safety and Pest Management Seminar will be held on April 11, 2019. If your company has employees that would benefit from in-depth pest management information from industry experts, email brendar@batzner.com to reserve space.

Tickets are \$35, lunch included. This event benefits people in a variety of industries, from healthcare facilities and restaurant management, to public health and food manufacturing.



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