

Pest Connection

*Tips For a Pest-Free
Business*

VOL 17 ISSUE 5

What's In Your Shipment?

A Surprising Guest Appears at International Manufacturer

By Kyle Kornacki, Marketing Assistant

Most businesses receive shipments. If you do, be aware of hitchhikers i.e. pests that have jumped on board for the ride, hoping to disembark and make their new home at your place.

If an unknown pest does appear, quickly and accurately identifying the pest is crucial to solving an issue before it grows into an even bigger problem. In the process of protecting a client's employees and brand, Batzner Pest Control has handled some interesting cases.

NOT JUST ANY SPIDER

During a routine service visit to an international manufacturer, a Batzner Service Professional came across a spider hiding in finished product. Service Manager and Associate Entomologist Jason Ganas remembers receiving the Service Professional's call and being surprised. "He told me that he thought he was looking at a black widow spider. I've never had one found in Wisconsin, so this seemed unlikely. They don't live here due to climate - they are mainly found in the south. I asked him to bring it in so we could be sure of what we were dealing with."

Once he saw it, Ganas confirmed that it was indeed a black widow. While all pest issues need to be handled quickly to avoid infestations, this was particularly urgent. Black widows will attack when their webs are disturbed. While rarely fatal to people, their bites can be extremely painful and cause unpleasant symptoms.

INVESTIGATION

Ganas knew the combined circumstances of the pest's rarity in the area and the fact that it was hidden away inside of finished product made it likely that the spider had been unseen in a shipment. "We've seen these situations before where an uncommon pest hitchhikes its way into a manufacturing facility, so we know how to handle them," says Ganas, "The first step is determining the severity of the problem, because it's possible there are multiple pests that snuck into the shipment." Within a week two more adults and several egg sacs had been discovered in finished products, indicating that a bigger population was present and likely arrived in a similar way as the initial spider.

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Batzner Recognizes *Three New Certified Entomologists*



Dan Stawicki

- Service Manager with over 15 years of pest control experience
- Certified in IL & WI
- Specialties: integrated pest management, urban rat control & management, cockroach expert
- Wisconsin Pest Control Association (WPCA) master technician
- Advanced Purdue course graduate



Jason Ganas

- Service Manager with over 10 years of pest control experience
- Specialties: integrated pest management, bird management and wildlife removal
- Wisconsin Pest Control Association (WPCA) master technician
- Advanced Purdue course graduate
- American Institute of Baking (AIB) Food Processing Sanitation and Hygiene graduate



Greg McMillon

- Lead Service Professional with over 16 years of pest control experience
- Specialties: integrated pest management, pest management in third-party inspected food processing facilities
- American Institute of Baking (AIB) Food Processing Sanitation and Hygiene graduate

Congratulations to Dan Stawicki, Greg McMillon and Jason Ganas for becoming our newest Associate Certified Entomologists (ACE)! In order to become certified, individuals must:

- Successfully pass a rigorous and challenging exam
- Have a minimum of five years of pest control experience to be approved by the ESA prior to exam consideration

Visit www.entsoc.org for more information. ♦

Featured Pest

Bite Back with Our Mosquito Program

According to Wikipedia, mosquitoes are small, midge-like flies, whose tube-like mouthparts pierce the hosts' skin to consume blood. Not exactly the guest you want at your summer barbecue. Along with the sting and itching their bites impart, mosquitoes bring disease to humans and pets. Lyme, West Nile, and Zika are well-known viruses, and the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) at mosquito.org lists several more.

DIY or Professional Application?

You may be tempted to try a fogger product from a DIY big box store. This can be somewhat effective, but will not match the long-term coverage a professionally applied product will have. Mosquito service professionals are required to hold a state aquatic license in order to provide mosquito control, so in addition to using a commercial-grade product, they understand application techniques, providing maximum effectiveness. Explains Karl Rowell, Batzner QA and Safety Manager, "We use professional misters that release tiny droplets, so product blankets the foliage surface area more thoroughly than the



- 1. Gutters** - Remove leaves and other debris from gutters
- 2. Flower Pots** - Pour out stagnant water from flowerpots and planters
- 3. Grill Cover** - Make sure water isn't gathering on top of the grill cover
- 4. Baby Pool** - Don't let water sit on baby pools for long periods of time
- 5. Bird Bath** - Frequently change out the water in birdbaths
- 6. Leaky Pipes** - Repair any leaky pipes or faucets
- 7. Tires** - Drill holes in the bottom of tire swings and wheel barrels to allow water to drain
- 8. Trash Cans** - Ensure trash cans are tightly sealed and lids aren't flipped upside down
- 9. Buckets** - Remove water collecting in buckets and toys
- 10. Ponds** - Keep swimming pools and ponds adequately treated.

application from a DIY spray. This limits chemical exposure to people and pets.

Best Value - Three Month Program

Batzner offers a three-month program that provides continuous coverage during the height of mosquito season. Typically starting in June to coincide with mosquito breeding habits, the once-a-month service targets mosquito resting areas to eliminate the existing population, and applies an insect growth regulator that prevents them from reproducing in your yard.

Service starts in June - Schedule Now

This approach is designed to start coverage before a population can take hold in your yard. The program can be extended for additional months. Just need a one-time service for a big event? Service can be customized to the venue and time. Call or use the form online for more information. Happy bug-free summer! ♦

Ask the Experts

Featuring advice from our Associate Certified Entomologists

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



Dave Kusnierek
Associate Certified
Entomologist,
District Manager

Q: No matter how much I clean, I can't get rid of flies in the sink of my restaurant's bar. Another restaurant owner told me they are probably drain flies (AKA moth flies). Are these different from fruit flies and if so, what should I do differently?



A: Drain flies (left) and fruit flies (right) are often mistaken for one another, but are in fact quite different. Both are 1/8 inches long and are somewhat similar looking, but their biology and management are very different as they come from different families. Drain flies are common in drains, while the fruit fly may occasionally come up from the drain area. The drain flies are usually tan to dark brown in color. They lack the red eye color that is the classic trademark of the fruit fly. The drain fly breeds and feeds on areas of moist decaying organic matter. Breeding of these flies exists anywhere with moisture, such as garbage containers, and drains in bathroom and kitchen areas. Larvae will live

in the moist film that develops on the sides of a drain and in the debris that is trapped on the edge. By noticing numerous flies inside the drain, this is a sign that the drain is a breeding site.

The best solution in removing the drain flies is to physically clean all drains where breeding sites could be located.

1. Pull the drain out completely and remove as much of organic material as possible.
2. Use a drain cleaner on a regular basis.
3. After examining each drain for live larvae, use a sharp tool, such as a knife, and scrape the moist film off the sides of the drain.
4. Check the floor drains to see if any flies are present as well. As restaurants and food processing facilities use water hoses to wash the floors, the water can push food debris into cracks and crevices where breeding sites originate.
5. All cracks and crevices need to be inspected and thoroughly cleaned. The goal is to remove all organic debris near kitchen and drain equipment that could cause breeding of drain flies.

Sincerely,

WHAT'S IN YOUR SHIPMENT?

[Continued from cover]

Ganas describes, "Through communicating and working closely with the client, we found that the products that the spiders and eggs were found in had just been returned from a distribution center in Arizona, where black widows are much more common. From talking to management at the distribution center, we also learned that the total of twenty finished products they shipped back had been stored outside on pallets for an extended period of time, further supporting that the infestation started there and was brought back."

SOLUTION

Because the identification and investigation of the infestation had been handled so quickly, it was unlikely that any of the black widows had spread from the 20 products in which the infestation initially occurred.

Ganas explains, "Once we had gathered all the information, the treatment plan was very straight-forward. The products had intricate machine parts that offered tons of hiding spots for egg sacs and spiders, so we decided the best course of action was to put the 20 products in a trailer and fog the trailer. This allowed the product to reach all the hidden areas and ensure the pests were exterminated."

RESULTS

The treated products were safe to move back to storage within an hour after application. The client was relieved and thankful at how quickly and effectively the situation was dealt with, without interrupting normal business operations.

Read more case studies at batzner.com/case-studies ♦

Quick Notes

Batzner clients attend the 27th Annual Food Safety and Pest Management Seminar.



FOOD SAFETY SEMINAR

Batzner's 27th Annual Food Safety & Pest Management Seminar took place on Thursday, April 6th. Danielle Slack, Batzner's Marketing Communication Coordinator, stated, "This seminar serves as some clients' primary source of pest management education." Topics ranged from rats and cockroaches to bed bugs and

fly control. If you are interested in attending next year's seminar, or would like more information regarding the event, contact Danielle Slack at danielles@batzner.com.

2017 AIB CONSOLIDATED STANDARDS UPDATE

Read the full details here: batzner.com/aib-consolidated-standards



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.

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Initial BAN Service

With the *Employee Purchase Program*

If your workplace is serviced by Batzner, you qualify for \$40 off your initial BAN service for your home! Contact us to sign up for our quarterly BAN program.



Join Our *Fast Growing* Team!

If you know someone 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.

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