



THE PROFESSIONAL PEST  
MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY  
Protectors of public health, food and property  
from the dangers and diseases posed by pests



Pest management is often associated with controlling common household pests in residential settings. Depending on the type of infestation, pests can compromise a building's structural stability and can even put property at risk for fire. However, the importance of the industry to the nation is much broader than controlling pests in the home. It plays a vital role in protecting our food supply and public health. In fact, public health officials attribute the quality of life we have today to three things: better pharmaceuticals and vaccines, better sanitation and better pest control.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

- Pests contaminate food, as well as kitchen equipment and other surfaces. Pests also infest food items and stored products including grains and dry goods.
- Pests can spread diseases such as Zika virus, West Nile virus, Lyme disease, malaria, plague, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, hantavirus and encephalitis.
- Ninety-seven percent of allergists believe a pest-free home is an important step in preventing asthma and allergy symptoms.<sup>1</sup>
- Seventy percent of homeowners with regular professional pest control service have it because it best protects their home and family.<sup>2</sup>
- Innovations in pest management parallel an increase in life expectancy. In 1900, life expectancy was just 49 years and in 2012 life expectancy rose to 78.8 years.
- It would be difficult to find any segment of the food industry that could comply with federal sanitation and health regulations without an adequate pest management program.

## INDUSTRY OVERVIEW



**19,295**  
COMPANIES



**142,320**  
SERVICE  
TECHNICIANS



**\$9.3+**  
BILLION IN  
ANNUAL BILLING

Courtesy of Specialty Products Consultants, LLC - A Strategic Analysis of the U.S. Structural Pest Control Industry - 2019

## MOSQUITOES



The mosquito is by far the most dangerous animal in the world, killing more people each year than humans, snakes and sharks combined.

Mosquitoes are vectors of numerous diseases including malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, encephalitis, chikungunya, West Nile virus and Zika virus.

Prevention around the clock is vital to reduce contact with mosquitoes and the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses.

## TICKS



Ticks are vectors of Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, anaplasmosis, babesiosis and ehrlichiosis.

Ticks typically require 24-48 hours of feeding before they can successfully transmit diseases. If ticks are removed within the first 24 hours, infection is unlikely.

The appearance of a "bull's-eye" rash is often the first sign of Lyme disease. It occurs in about 70 to 90 percent of cases.

## RODENTS



Rodents consume or contaminate about 20 percent of the world's food supply.

Rats transmit diseases such as Salmonella, Rat-bite fever, hantavirus trichinosis, murine typhus, plague and Leptospirosis.

Rodents have been implicated in fires across the country by chewing wires and spilling flammables.

More than one-third of American homeowners (37 percent) have seen a rodent in their home in the past year.<sup>3</sup>

The top three places rodents are spotted in a home include the garage, kitchen and basement.<sup>3</sup>

## STINGING INSECTS



Stinging insects send more than half a million people to the emergency room every year.

More than two million Americans are allergic to stinging insects.<sup>4</sup>

At least 50 people die each year as a result of insect stings.<sup>4</sup>

## BED BUGS



Bed bug bites can leave behind itchy, red welts and can increase one's risk for a secondary infection from scratching.

One in five Americans have had a bed bug infestation in their home or know someone who has encountered bed bugs either at home or in a hotel.<sup>5</sup>

Nearly one hundred percent of pest professionals have treated for bed bugs in the past year. Fifteen years ago, only 25 percent of pest professionals reported treating for bed bugs.<sup>6</sup>

The top three places where pest professionals report finding bed bugs are apartments/condominiums, single-family homes and hotels/motels.<sup>6</sup>

## TERMITES



Termites are known as "silent destroyers" due to their ability to chew through wood, flooring and even wallpaper undetected.

Termites alone cause over \$5 billion in property damage annually, a cost typically not covered by homeowners' insurance policies.

Subterranean termites eat 24/7, making them the most destructive termite species found in the United States.

## COCKROACHES



Cockroaches are known to spread 33 kinds of bacteria, including E. coli and Salmonella, six types of parasitic worms and seven kinds of human pathogens.

The saliva, droppings and decomposing bodies of cockroaches contain allergen proteins known to trigger allergy and asthma symptoms, especially in children.

Cockroach suppression and eradication is vital to healthcare facilities, homes and sites where food is prepared or served.

<sup>1</sup> 2014 intercept survey conducted by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America in partnership with the National Pest Management Association

<sup>2</sup> 2016 Pest Control Attitudes & Usage Survey, Regina Corso Consulting on behalf of the Professional Pest Management Alliance

<sup>3</sup> 2017 Harris Poll conducted on behalf of the National Pest Management Association

<sup>4</sup> According to the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology

<sup>5</sup> 2011 Bed Bugs in America survey conducted by the National Pest Management Association

<sup>6</sup> 2015 Bugs Without Borders survey conducted by the National Pest Management Association and the University of Kentucky

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