

DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME: Do-It-Yourself Pest Control Methods Can Result In Deadly Consequences

- Stacey Hammel

The hassle and damage caused by pest infestations can make people want to exterminate these pests with extreme prejudice. When confronted with the choice between doing it themselves and hiring a pest control company, most initially opt to do it themselves. They balk at the cost of professional help, especially when they can vividly imagine what they can do with the savings. Unfortunately, except for a few lucky ones, homeowners end up wasting money on ineffective do-it-yourself control methods, and in the end have to hire a pest control company to get rid of their problem.

Poison

A common pest extermination product is poison, which is seen as an easy way to get rid of pests. There are several mistakes an amateur can commit. The first mistake is buying and applying the poison without checking the type of pest - or pests - infesting the home. The poison is often applied immediately with only a cursory glance at the instructions. The results are unpleasant. The poison may have been chosen incorrectly, leaving the pests unharmed. Their contact with the poisonous substance may cause it to spread to other places like water sources, exposed food, and children's toys. This can in turn poison the human residents instead. On the other hand, if the poison is successful, pests may die in places that are hard to reach. The decomposing flesh will exude noxious odors. The air may carry bacteria and viruses from these dead animals, particularly if the pest died in a ventilation duct. The health of each resident will be placed at considerable risk and the medication of those who become sick will be costly.

Decontamination and Sanitation

Like any other living being, pests die when they have reached the end of their life span. The problem is where they do so, often many rats and mice perish in hidden spaces causing an unbearable stink. A homeowner's initial reaction will normally be to seek out the carcass and dispose of it as soon as possible. But this puts him at risk. The attempt may result in injury and property damage, not to mention the possibility of acquiring a potentially life-threatening disease like tularemia - a disease which causes fever, dry cough, joint pain, and progressive weakness. In cases of rat infestation, there may also be exposed electrical wiring which can harm the unwary or cause a fire.

Ignoring the Problem Until Too Late

The last and worst mistake that could be committed is to ignore the problem while it's small. Most household pests infest homes for a reason. Inside the house they find an endless food source and shelter. From food to furniture to walls, they settle inside, build their nests and reproduce quickly. So, catching an infestation at its early stages is the ideal moment to seek help. This will limit the damage. The longer you wait to attend the situation, the harder will be to get rid of it. And of course the harm to the home structures will be worse.

The benefits of hiring a Pest Control Company

Contacting a pest control company when a problem is suspected is a wise course of action. Remember a pest control company has professional staff provided with tools, protective equipment, and regularly-updated training to handle proper

decontamination and sanitation. Their job includes protecting the property of their clients while they are carrying out their pest control duties. They also are insured and bonded, so any damage to them or the property is covered by these. Also, after making a thorough inspection they can prevent further pest incursions by placing natural or appropriate man-made barriers and repellents at the right places and recommend the necessary adjustments to avoid a similar situation in the future.

Of course, there are reputable companies and unreliable ones in the market. It is important not to immediately jump at the first offer but to study it and compare it with their competition. When choosing a pest control company you should aim for one that:

- Uses products that are safe for children and pets.
- Knows the area you live in and the common pests of your location.
- Offers a full warranty for their services.
- Has the best price-quality rate in the market.

After considering the above factors, reading online reviews and testimonials from prior clients may also provide useful information in order to make this decision. One thing is clear, the costs of hiring a pest control company are fairly reasonable compared to the expenses of ineffective do-it-yourself methods and their complications to you or the rest of your family in terms of health.

