



building inspection service, inc.
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May 6, 2011

House Sense - Spring 2011

Is it Spring yet? No kids it's Summer! What happened to Spring? We went from cold, damp, rainy to 85°F +. This is the time when all the flowers, grass and trees start to bloom and grow and after the snow filled winter, we are all looking forward to the sweet smell of flowers and a little green rather than white on our lawns.

Paul's Motors
Sales & Service, Inc.

On Saturday, May 21st, Willy has once again been invited to speak at the popular "Paul's Volvo Spring Clinic". The program starts at 10:00am and runs till 12:30pm at Paul's Volvo on 990 Goffle Road, Hawthorne, please visit the following link for more information ... <http://www.paulsvolvo.com/underthehood.asp> and feel free to sign up!

The topic is, "What's Bugging You" and with the advent of Spring we get all the bugs back. By bugs we mean insects like termites, ticks, stink bugs, spiders and ants.

"What's Bugging You?"

Termites Those first Spring days cause termites to swarm. We are very lucky in New Jersey as we only have one species of termite, the Subterranean Termite. Don't let them eat away your home. The National Pest Management Association estimates that termites cause over five billion dollars of damage in the United States yearly. When subterranean termites swarm

Stink Bugs One insect that is making a big stink in United States is the Exotic Brown Marmorated commonly known as the Stink Bug. They hitched a ride from China to the east coast, probably in a container, several years ago and they love it here so they have decided to stay and multiply. Stink bugs are a prehistoric looking insect and get their name because if you squash

Ticks With ticks comes the possibility of Lyme Disease which is the most common tick-borne disease in North America. The cause of the disease is a microbe called *Borrelia burgdorferi* and most cases of Lyme disease are in the eastern half of the country. Ticks – primarily the blacklegged or deer tick feed on deer and mice and then transfer the microbe to humans. Research has shown

during the months of April, May and June within approximately one half hour of swarming they mate, break off their wings and start a new colony at your home. If you see termite mud tubes, which look like dirt ivy roots, growing on your foundation or wood framing you could have termites. If you break the tube open and see little white insects then you definitely have termites. Extermination of these insects is not a do it yourself project. Call a professional pest control company to treat them. I encourage homeowners to do as much maintenance on their homes as they are capable of and comfortable doing, however, termite elimination is not one of them. How can you help to protect your investment against a termite infestation? I usually ask my clients if they know what chum is. Chum is ground up fish and meat that you use when deep sea fishing to attract the fish to your boat. Termites ingest cellulose – that's right they live on anything that has cellulose in it - wood, books, newspaper, wall paper, cardboard - you get the picture so don't bait them to your home. Keep all wood away from your foundation. Mulch is fine but wood chips, old firewood, newspaper, dead tree and shrub stumps are bad news. I inspected one home where the homeowner liked to recycle her magazines and newspapers around the perimeter of her house. "It keeps the weeds down", is what she told me and was proud that she had thought of such a clever way to recycle. Well besides worms and pill bugs the newspaper was full of worker termites. She was lucky they had not made it inside her home as they were well fed and growing outside her home. Her

them they smell really bad. A stink bug is about 1/2 to 5/8 of an inch long and has a light brown marbled exoskeleton. Although sink bugs do not cause any harm to humans their presence and odor in our homes is unwanted. The best way to prevent stink bugs from entering your home is to seal up all openings, especially around windows, doors, through broken or loose fitting screens, under sill plates and in attic eaves. These areas are generally their point of entry. You can have your home treated to help prevent these and other insects from entering your home but simple exclusion is best. A good handyman or your exterminator can do the exclusion/caulking to prevent an infestation from occurring.

Ants There are over five thousand different species of ants that have been documented. There are estimates that there are at least fifteen thousand undocumented species of ants. We have native ants and non-native ants. The non-native ants are like the stink bugs they are an invasive pest species that hitched a ride to the United States from elsewhere. Because invasive pests usually have no or few predators they typically do well here. Soon they take over and push out or take over the native species. The Odorous House Ant, the Argentine Ant, the Raspberry Ant and the Pharaoh Ant are just a few of the foreign species. Most ants can easily be controlled by a pest control operator or even by the do it yourself homeowner. If you're going to DIY using chemicals, please follow the directions on

that ticks must be attached for up to 24 hours before the disease can be transmitted to animals, including humans. Since these ticks are small, self examination is very important to see if ticks are attached. The symptoms of Lyme may include a rash with a bulls-eye appearance, lethargy, lesions, and finally symptoms including chronic arthritis, especially in the knee joints. There are about 20,000 cases of Lyme disease in the United States annually. Treatment can be done through a regimen of antibiotics if properly diagnosed early by a physician. Treatment is generally successful, however, chronic joint issues may linger. To reduce the presence of all kinds of ticks in your yard, be sure to keep your grass cut short and your pets on veterinary-monitored tick preventatives. Do not encourage deer and other wildlife to travel in your yard.

Spiders We have two well known venomous spider species here in New Jersey. One is the Brown Recluse Spider the other is the Wolf Spider. Both can cause serious injury to humans. Both are large brown spiders with the Wolf Spider being very large and hairy - an adult of about 5 years of age is about the size of a 50 cent piece. The Wolf Spider is more common in our area. It is light colored, taupe or beige with two black or tan racing stripes going down its - back depending on how you look at it. The Wolf Spider hunts day and night where the Brown Recluse Spider hunts mostly at night. Remember, spiders are predators, they hunt bugs. So if you want to get rid of spiders, get rid of the bugs they are

recycling effort cost her \$600 for a termite treatment. If you want to be sure you don't have an infestation, have a professional exterminator like John Foster from Four Season's Pest Management come out and inspect your home (973-857-8855). Termite inspections should be performed yearly.

the label carefully. Don't add more of the chemical than necessary because you really just want to "killem" - you don't want to waste money or deposit unnecessary chemicals into the Earth.

feeding on. Spiders are a beneficial insect to man so rather than killing spiders, get them to move away. A lot of research is now being done on the benefits of spider venom. It may help stroke patients as well as help to control Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's disease. The venom of the South American Tarantula spider *Grammostola spatulata* is being tested in the treatment of atrial fibrillation as it contains a peptide that can calm an irregular heart beat. So try not to kill spiders.

Spring trivia!

Paper money isn't made of paper - it's 75% cotton / 25% linen to give it strength and the proper feel. Oh yea, since 1990 there are also polymer (plastic) security threads laminated inside the bills.

Here is a titillating fact; the dot over the letter 'i' is called - you guessed it - a 'tittle'.

Susan Lucci is the daughter of Phyllis Diller. Warren Beatty and Shirley MacLaine are brother and sister.

Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.

Although we love it, chocolate affects a dog's heart and nervous system; a few ounces can kill a small sized dog.

Here is one for you ladies; most lipstick contains fish scales.

The name Wendy was made up for the book "Peter Pan". Before that time there was no record of anyone being named Wendy.

Good news for you dieters. Celery has negative calories! It actually takes more calories to chew celery than it has to begin with. The same applies to apples.

Did you know that New Jersey has the most diners in the world and is sometimes referred to as the diner capital of the world and that North Jersey has the most shopping malls in one area in the world with seven major shopping malls in a 25 sq. mile radius?

From all your friends at DICO ... Happy Spring! *Willy, Tony, Mike, Beth and Melinda*