

Moving into a new [spider control](#) home has a way of hiding its rough edges until the first quiet evening. You notice a line of ants under the dishwasher. A wasp drifts past the attic vent. Something scratches in the wall just after midnight. None of those discoveries mean you bought a disaster, but they do mean it is time to look at the property like an owner, not a visitor.

Most pest problems in a new house are not dramatic at first. They start with moisture around a sill plate, a gap under a side door, old mulch piled against siding, or cardboard boxes that sat untouched in a garage for months. New homeowners often think of pest control as a single service call. In practice, good pest control starts with observation, timing, and a realistic understanding of what different pests are telling you about the structure.

A house can be clean and still have pests. It can also be untidy and have no serious infestation. What matters most is access to food, water, shelter, and entry points. If you start there, you can prioritize the issues that actually threaten the home, your comfort, or your wallet.

Start with the pests that can damage the house

The first question is not, "What bug is this?" The first question is, "What can this pest cost me if I ignore it for three months?" That mindset keeps you from overreacting to a harmless spider while overlooking termite activity in a crawl space.

Termite control sits at the top of the list for most homeowners because termites work quietly and repair bills add up fast. In many parts of the country, especially where soil stays damp and wood framing is close to grade, termites can stay active for a long time before anyone notices. Mud tubes along a foundation wall, blistered paint that looks like water damage, soft trim, and discarded wings near windows are all worth taking seriously. Even if your home passed a sale inspection, that report captured one point in time. Conditions change quickly when drainage fails or mulch gets too deep against the foundation.

Rodent control also deserves early attention. Mice and rats do more than raid a pantry. They contaminate insulation, chew wiring, nest in stored fabrics, and exploit tiny structural gaps that most homeowners never notice. A mouse can get through an opening that looks too small to matter. By the time you hear movement in the ceiling, the access route may already be well established.

Ant control belongs high on the priority list too, but with a little more nuance. A few ants in a kitchen may be a seasonal nuisance. Carpenter ants are a different story. They do not eat wood like termites, but they excavate it, especially where moisture has softened the material. If you see coarse sawdust-like debris, especially near windows, door frames, or damp walls, the problem may be more than a countertop trail.

The first walk-through should happen outside

New homeowners usually start indoors because that is where they see the pest. In the field, the better first move is often outside. Exterior conditions explain a large share of indoor pest activity.

Walk the perimeter slowly, ideally in daylight and again at dusk if mosquitoes or stinging insects are a concern. Look for grading that slopes toward the house, clogged gutters, splash blocks that dump water against the foundation, and shrubbery pressed tight against siding. That kind of dense, damp cover is ideal for ants, spiders, earwigs, and other pests that later make their way indoors.

Pay attention to the lower edge of the structure. Cracks in mortar, torn vent screens, gaps around utility lines, poorly sealed hose bibs, and worn door sweeps are textbook entry points. So are garage door corners.

Homeowners often inspect front and back doors carefully but forget the garage, which is one of the most common weak spots in a house.

If you have deck boards, fencing, or firewood stacked directly against the structure, take note. Wood-to-soil contact and constant shade create conditions that support termite activity and other moisture-related pest issues. Even if you do not see insects immediately, you are looking at risk factors, and that matters.

Domination Extermination on what the yard reveals first

At Domination Extermination, one of the recurring lessons in new-home visits is that the yard often tells the story before the living room does. A homeowner may call about spider control because webs keep appearing in a basement corner, but the real driver is exterior lighting that draws flying insects all night, paired with overgrown foundation plantings that hold moisture. The spiders are simply responding to a steady food source. When that outside pressure is reduced, interior activity often drops with it.

That same pattern shows up with mosquito control. Homeowners sometimes assume mosquitoes are a neighborhood problem they cannot influence. In reality, a single property can produce a surprising amount of mosquito activity if it has standing water in clogged gutters, low spots in tarps, neglected birdbaths, or containers left behind by the previous owner. A backyard can look tidy and still support breeding sites if water stands for several days at a time.

Inside the home, focus on evidence, not fear

Once the exterior has been checked, move indoors with a flashlight and a notebook. You are not trying to become an entomologist in an afternoon. You are trying to build a pattern.

Check under sinks, behind appliances, around water heaters, inside utility rooms, in attic access areas, and along the perimeter of the basement or crawl space. Pest evidence is often indirect. You may find droppings, rub marks, webbing, shed insect skins, frass, grease trails, or damaged food packaging before you see the pest itself.

Bed bug control is one area where evidence matters more than assumption. New homeowners sometimes inherit bugs through stored furniture, old carpeting, or items moved from one residence to another, but just seeing a random bite is not proof of bed bugs. Look for small dark spotting along mattress seams, bed frames, headboards, and upholstered furniture. If you are not sure, caution is smart. Throwing away furniture too early can spread the problem and cost money unnecessarily.

Spider control tends to be one of the most emotional categories because people notice spiders immediately and often dislike them intensely. Most house spiders are more nuisance than hazard. Their presence often signals that other insects are available as food. A basement with frequent spider activity may be telling you about moisture, exterior gaps, or a broader insect population. In that sense, spiders can be useful messengers.

Bee and wasp control calls for judgment. A solitary wasp near a porch light in spring is different from repeated yellowjacket traffic disappearing into a wall void in late summer. Not every bee or wasp should be treated the same way. Some pollinators are beneficial and may simply need to be left alone if they are not nesting near people or pets. Others, especially social wasps nesting in eaves, soffits, sheds, or ground voids, can become aggressive and unsafe to handle casually.

Why season matters more than most homeowners think

A surprising number of pest calls come from good intentions applied at the wrong time. Someone sees one ant in January and panics, then ignores swarmers in April. Someone waits until the hottest week of summer to think

about mosquito control, even though the breeding conditions were there for months.

Pest activity follows patterns, but those patterns shift by region, temperature, moisture, and how a particular property is built. In a wet spring, ant and termite pressure may ramp up earlier. In a dry season, rodents may push indoors seeking water. Warm autumns can extend wasp activity much later than homeowners expect.

For new homeowners, the practical takeaway is simple. Do not wait for a crisis. If the house has a history of termite control, keep track of inspection intervals. If the lot has heavy vegetation or drainage issues, expect seasonal spikes in mosquito control and spider control concerns. If the previous owner stored food in the garage or left clutter in a basement, keep rodent control on your radar right away.

Domination Extermination and the value of a baseline inspection

One of the most useful things a homeowner can do in the first month is establish a baseline. Domination Extermination often approaches new-house assessments this way: not just asking what pest is visible today, but identifying what conditions will likely produce trouble in the next season. That distinction matters because preventive work is usually less disruptive than chasing an established infestation.

For example, a house may show no current termite activity but still have high-risk conditions, such as mulch touching siding, buried exterior steps holding moisture, and an old tree stump near the foundation. Another property may have no visible rodents indoors, yet the attic shows old droppings, the garage door corners are open, and a crawl space vent screen is damaged. Neither case is a reason to panic, but both are strong reasons to act before the signs become expensive.

A baseline also helps separate recurring nuisances from true escalation. If you know the house tends to get occasional pavement ants after heavy rain, that is useful context. If the pattern changes to carpenter ants appearing around damp trim, that is a different level of concern. Good records, even simple notes on your phone, make those distinctions easier.

The pests most new homeowners encounter first

Some problems show up again and again in the first year of ownership, usually because moving, landscaping changes, and seasonal maintenance all disrupt the environment around a home.

- Ants in kitchens, bathrooms, or along foundation walls
- Spiders in basements, garages, and corners with low traffic
- Wasps around eaves, sheds, attic vents, and play areas
- Mosquitoes near standing water and shaded yards
- Mice entering through garage gaps, utility penetrations, or attic openings

That list is common, but not universal. Regional differences matter. In some areas, termite control is the main structural concern. In others, rodent control or bed bug control may dominate the first wave of homeowner questions. The key is to respond based on evidence and risk, not on which pest feels most alarming in the moment.

A practical order of operations for the first 30 days

When homeowners ask where to start, the answer is usually not “treat everything.” It is better to move in a sequence that reduces access, moisture, and habitat first, then deal with specific pest activity in a targeted way.

- Seal obvious entry points such as door sweeps, utility gaps, and torn screens
- Correct moisture issues, including leaks, poor drainage, and clogged gutters
- Trim vegetation away from siding and remove debris near the foundation
- Inspect for termites, rodents, and active nests in attics, basements, and crawl spaces
- Store food, pet feed, and cardboard cleanly while unpacking

That order works because it addresses the conditions many pests depend on. If you skip straight to product use without correcting the environment, the relief may be temporary. A kitchen ant trail can vanish for a week and return because the moisture under the sink never changed. Mosquito control efforts can feel ineffective if standing water remains untouched.



Where DIY works, and where it usually falls short

There is plenty a homeowner can handle well. Replacing weatherstripping, clearing gutters, reducing clutter, storing dry goods in sealed containers, and fixing a leaky hose bib are all worthwhile. So is learning the difference between a casual invader and a sign of something established.

DIY gets shakier when identification is uncertain or the pest is tied to a structural void, hidden nest, or concealed damage. Bee and wasp control is a good example. A visible paper nest under a small overhang may seem straightforward, but wall-void nests, ground yellowjackets, or repeated traffic near entry doors are different situations entirely. Stinging insect work goes wrong quickly when the colony size is underestimated or the escape routes are poorly understood.

Termite control is another area where guesswork can be costly. Homeowners may find what they think are ants with wings, treat a visible spot, and miss the larger issue. By the time the misidentification becomes clear, the colony has had more time to work. Accurate inspection matters more than bravado.

Bed bug control also punishes half measures. It is one of the few pest issues where over-the-counter attempts can easily scatter insects into new rooms or belongings if the response is not carefully planned. New homeowners dealing with inherited furniture or suspicious bedroom evidence are better served by slow, methodical inspection than by impulsive disposal.

Bee and wasp control Maple Shade concerns, and what changes house to house

Local conditions shape pest pressure more than people realize. Bee and wasp control Maple Shade homeowners deal with, for example, can vary dramatically from one block to the next depending on mature trees, detached sheds, older soffits, and how close neighboring yards sit to one another. Two houses of similar size may have completely different stinging insect issues because one has quiet, shaded rooflines and the other has open sun exposure with fewer protected nesting spots.



The same goes for mosquito control. A property near wooded edges, drainage swales, or heavy ornamental landscaping may need much more attention than a newer, open lot. Rodent control often follows the age of the housing stock and the condition of exterior sealing. Older homes have character, but they also tend to have more tiny gaps, settling cracks, and patched utility entries.

That is why broad advice only gets you so far. The details matter. A homeowner with a finished basement and no crawl space faces a different inspection routine than someone with a damp, vented crawl space under half the

house. A family with dogs and young children may need a more careful plan around backyard wasp activity than a household with little outdoor use. Pest control is rarely one-size-fits-all in real homes.

What to do if you find more than one pest at once

This is common, especially after a move. Boxes attract hiding places, routines are disrupted, doors stay open longer, and deferred maintenance from the previous owner starts to show itself. A house can have ant control needs, spider control issues, and a rodent entry problem all at once without being unusual.

The mistake is trying to solve all three as if they are unrelated. Often they connect through one or two underlying conditions. Excess moisture can support ants, occasional invaders, and wood-destroying pests. Exterior gaps can explain both rodents and spiders. Clutter in a garage can shelter insects and provide nesting cover for mice.

When several pests appear together, start by ranking them in this order: structural risk, health or safety risk, then nuisance level. That usually puts termite control and rodent control near the top, bee and wasp control close behind when nests are near people, and nuisance spiders lower unless there is a medically significant species involved in your region.

Domination Extermination on avoiding the “spray everything” mistake

Domination Extermination has seen the same pattern repeat in many new-home situations. A homeowner discovers ants in the kitchen, buys a fogger for the basement, sprays around windows, and uses a repellent on the patio, all in the same weekend. The house smells treated, but the core conditions remain. The sink cabinet still leaks. The mulch still touches the siding. The garage side door still has daylight under it. A month later, the ants are back, and now the owner is less sure what actually changed.

A more disciplined approach works better. Identify the pest, identify why it is there, then match the response to the biology of that pest. Ant control often depends on understanding where the colony is feeding and nesting. Rodent control depends heavily on exclusion. Mosquito control depends on breeding-site reduction as much as any treatment. Pest control sounds broad, but the successful decisions are usually very specific.

The paperwork you should keep from day one

This part gets overlooked. Keep every inspection report, termite warranty document if one exists, notes from the seller’s disclosure, and photos of any pest evidence you find during the first year. If a swarm happens, photograph it. If you notice mud tubes or frass, document the location and date. If there is previous treatment history, preserve it.

Those records help in practical ways. They tell you whether a problem is new or recurring. They help future technicians assess the house accurately. They also give you a clearer view of seasonality. Many homeowners do not realize a pest issue follows a pattern until they look back at notes from the previous spring or fall.

The goal is not a sterile house

A realistic standard helps. No occupied home is free of every insect at every moment. A spider in a garage or a stray ant after a storm does not mean your home is failing. The objective is control, not fantasy. You want to prevent structural damage, reduce health and safety risks, and keep occasional invaders from becoming established.

For a new homeowner, that means paying close attention early, especially in the first year. Learn how the property drains. Notice where sunlight and moisture linger. Watch the garage, basement, attic, and exterior trim. Handle the small vulnerabilities before they turn into patterns.

If you do that, pest control becomes far less mysterious. It turns into home maintenance with better observation. And for most houses, that is exactly where the best results begin.

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