



Our Insect Enemies



Don't Let Pests Swarm In On Your Summer Fun

(NAPSA)—As the temperature heats up, many of us head outdoors—only to begin an annual battle with annoying and sometimes perilous insects that invade our yards. Activities we associate with the season—swimming, barbecues, even enjoying sunsets from our front porches—are not immune to intrusive pests.

Insects that bite or sting cause great concern. In fact, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology notes that stinging insects send 500,000 people to hospitals each year. According to Orkin Pest Control, wasps, hornets, yellow jackets and fire ants are a particular problem; hot weather encourages the growth of their colonies. Just one acre can support up to 40 mature fire ant colonies, each capable of containing 500,000 or more ants. While insect bites or stings are usually not life threatening, they can be painful, easily infected and can aggravate skin disorders or allergies. Parents should monitor for stinging insect nests or mounds and have outbreaks treated by a licensed pest control professional.

Houseflies are also bothersome. Not only a nuisance, houseflies are known to carry a variety of disease organisms—including bacteria—that have been linked to food poisoning, urinary tract infections, bloodstream infections and meningitis. Houseflies can fly as far as 28 miles when carried by wind—and also buzz into the home. Ninety-eight percent of flies caught in the home are houseflies. When eating, people should be vigilant about keeping food away from these filthy pests.

“The warmer months create an insect-friendly environment that can interfere with our time out-



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doors,” says Orkin Technical Director and entomologist Paul Bello. “It’s during this peak insect season we should take steps necessary to ensure safety.”

Follow these steps to stop insects from ruining outdoor fun.

Keep food containers tightly wrapped or secured.

Don’t leave food or discarded wrappers in the open.

Cover soda cans. Many people are stung on the face and mouth by yellow jackets that entered their soda can unseen.

Empty garbage cans often.

Use an insect repellent containing DEET. Follow label instructions; wash repellent off when returning indoors.

Wear long sleeves and pants to reduce the amount of skin exposed to insects.

Consult a physician if showing signs of strong allergic reactions to an insect bite or sting.

Additional information on a variety of pests can be found online at www.orkin.com. For a free inspection, call 1-800-800-ORKIN.