

Staying Vermin Free Through The Cold

As the temperature outside drops and we cozy up inside our nice, warm homes. Unfortunately, insects and rodents try to do the same. Whether they are as tiny as ants or as big as a family of skunks, your best defense is to seal off their points. Here are a few things to do to keep them at bay:

Exterior Walls

Mice are probably the most frequent wintertime pests. Mice can sneak in to your home, through a hole no bigger than a dime, while a raccoon-size Rodent can enter through an opening of just 6-inches and only needs a quarter size hole to create it. When examining your home, look for light coming through cracks in your exterior walls. Another way to find cracks are by feeling for air movement, which can sometime lead to a crack you can't see. These small cracks are also an energy waster so by sealing your home from pests you will also help lower energy consumption. (**Quick Tip: mice hate steel wool, it cuts up there noses and they will go somewhere else**)

Not every hole may need to be filled, If you live in a newly built brick home it is more than likely you have brick veneer, bricks absorb water which is why you will find what are called weep holes in the bottom row of your brick. Older brick homes do not have weep holes, as the brick in older homes are structural.

Windows and Doors

Windows and doors are the most likely locations for vermin to enter your home. So be sure to have all your windows fitted with screens and that your screens have no rips or tears in them. Seal any cracks around your windows and door frames with caulking. Re seal the entire window or door frame if it looks necessary, that would mean the caulking is discoloured, the edges peeling up and/or hairline cracks forming and filling with dirt. Make sure the weather-stripping around your doors are in good shape and replace if necessary.

Ventilation

Finally be sure your ventilation (range hood, bathroom fans, Dryer vents and furnace exhaust) is operating properly and all the Rodent stops are in place. That means for those with flaps that the flap is fully closed when the appliance is off, and for the cage style vents they are fully intact and blockage free.

If you need any help filling cracks, fixing screens or checking / repairing / replacing your vents we would be happy to help. Give us a call before is too late.