When you hear the word ‘bee,’ you most likely think about honeybees, which are social and largely-beneficial insects. However, there is a solitary and destructive bee species called the carpenter bee. There are 7 species distributed throughout North America, but you may have never noticed them because carpenter bees closely resemble their relative, the bumble bee. Carpenter bees are robust and large, measuring a half inch to nearly an inch long, with a hairy body. The main difference in appearance between the two is found on the abdomen; carpenter bees have a shiny, often metallic-tinged abdomen, unlike the hairy ones found on bumble bees. Only females have stingers, though they are unlikely to sting unless threatened or handled roughly. Carpenter bees are territorial and will ‘dive-bomb’ humans from time to time, but do not pose a significant threat to people.

Bottle Flies

If you notice a brilliantly-colored, metallic looking fly buzzing around your home, you may have bottle flies, a common type of large fly known for their metallic blue or green color. Despite their unimaginable fly at least appearance, these flies prefer to breed in and amongst filth and are the first ones to find the carcasses of dead animals, on which they lay eggs. As soon as the maggots develop by consuming it, bottle flies will lay eggs on human food (including meat), animal waste, and garbage. These flies have a very short life cycle and can go from egg to adult in less than three weeks!

Call Today!

xxx-xxxx-xxxx
Carpenter Bees (continued from page 1)

The reason carpenter bees received their name is also the reason they are considered structural pests. In the spring, female carpenter bees chew into dry wood, commonly lumber and logs. These bees aren’t eating wood, they are actually excavating narrow tunnels for egg-laying purposes. Galleries, which are 4 to 6 inches deep, contain 6 cells, and have round entrances that are about a half inch around. Mother carpenter bees provide some great parental care and provision each cell with a single egg, pollen and nectar, a combination called ‘bee bread’. Eggs hatch and larvae develop in their cells, eating their bee bread and growing until they reach adulthood. In the late summer, the bees exit the gallery one by one and set out to mate. In order to survive the winter, they will hide in old galleries until spring.

Gallery openings are very noticeable and pretty easy to identify. Unfortunately, the same piece of wood can be exploited by many carpenter bees during the same year and new holes will be excavated in following years. A single wooden beam can be riddled with holes, which is not only unsightly, but it can also encourage other pests to exploit those openings.

There are a few things that can be done to prevent the wood on the exterior of your house from being attacked. Painted or varnished wood is rarely attacked, so that is a preventative option for homeowners worried about carpenter bee damage.

Tick Check

As spring arrives, most people can’t wait to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. Of course, we humans are not the only ones with this mindset. Throughout much of the country, immature ticks use this opportunity to ‘quest’ for a host. This means that they will climb up to the top of tall grasses and hold their legs up toward the sky. When a dog, deer, or person brushes by them, the tick will hold on tight and stay on the host until they’ve consumed a full meal ... of blood! Ticks have 4 life stages, egg, larva, nymph and adult. In order to move from one life stage to the next, they have to consume blood from a host. Ticks, especially immature ones, can be hard to see so you may need someone to help inspect. If you have pets that venture outdoors, be sure to keep your eye out for any nest construction and nip it in the bud.

Ouch! Paper wasps can deliver a doozy of a sting so steer clear of nests (above) and call in the professionals.

Never let that happen! Let us know if you have found any wasps inside so we can deliver a painful sting and should be regarded as dangerous. Don’t risk your health, or the health of your family, call us today to take care of any stinging insect problems before they materialize!

Paper Wasps

You may notice some unwelcome guests inside your house in the next few weeks, especially around windows and doors. Upon closer inspection you might become alarmed when you see that there are wasps in your home! If you observe them, you will see that they are most likely sluggish and a bit disoriented even. There is good news and bad news in this situation. The good is that the wasp has no interest in harming you and just wants to find its way outside. The bad news is, this particular wasp is a queen that already mated in the fall and is looking to start a new colony, probably on the exterior of your home! Of course, it’s not in your best interest to let that happen! Let us know if you have found any wasps inside so we can keep our eye out for any nest construction and nip it in the bud.