



Ants ~ Ants cause problems primarily when they forage in buildings for food or water and when they construct nests in buildings and gardens. When searching for food, they can be attracted to a wide range of products preferring sweets, meats, fats or oils. They will also search indoors for water during dry periods. When desirable items are found many species will alert fellow nest mates to help gather the food and return it to the nest. This can result in large numbers of ants appearing

over a short period of time. Ants can build nests in walls and foundations, or indoors in potted plants, enclosed areas, and even in cavities. Outdoors, nesting activity can result in excavated soil being deposited in gardens and on brickwork.



Bedbugs ~ Bedbugs are small parasitic insects of the family Cimicidae. All insects in this family live by feeding exclusively on the blood of warm-blooded animals. Bedbugs prefer to feed on human blood. The name 'bedbug' is derived from the insect's preferred habitat of houses and especially beds or other areas where people sleep. Bedbugs are mainly active at night and are capable of feeding unnoticed on their hosts. Bedbugs can be found on their own but often congregate once

established. They usually remain close to hosts, commonly in or near beds or couches. Nesting locations can vary greatly, however, including luggage, vehicles, furniture and bedside clutter. Bedbugs may also nest near animals that have nested within a dwelling, such as bats, birds. A number of health effects may occur due to bed bugs including skin rashes, psychological effects and allergic symptoms. Diagnosis involves both finding bed bugs and the occurrence of compatible symptoms. Treatment is otherwise symptomatic.



Bees ~ There is only one bee in Australia to be wary of, and that is the introduced European Honeybee. Honey bees are social insects that live in nests which may contain several thousand workers. Swarms of honey bees can become a problem for humans when they build nests in exposed locations such as under branches, eaves of a house, enclosed cavities, such as inside a wall, a chimney, a compost bin or a tree hollow. In this case you will see dozens of honeybees flying in and out of a single

entrance hole leading to the cavity. Bees will usually only attack in defence of their nest, or when they are grasped or trodden on. The sting of a Honeybee can be painful, but usually causes only local pain and swelling. Some victims, however, can suffer an allergic reaction. Don't forget that honeybees can sting. It is best to stay away from them and seek professional assistance.



Carpet Beetles ~ There are four carpet beetles found in Australia; The Variegated Carpet Beetle, Furniture Carpet Beetle, Black Carpet Beetle & Australian Carpet Beetle. Only the larvae feed on fabrics & furnishings, the adult beetle feeds on the pollen of flowering plants. Carpet Beetles enter homes via small cracks, open doors & windows or on cut flowers.

Variegated and black carpet beetles are the most widespread and damaging species, although the others can be locally destructive. Carpet beetles may frequently damage carpets, rugs, under felt, wall hangings, clothing and wool insulation.



Cockroaches ~ The most common cockroaches in Australia which are regarded as pests are the German cockroach, American cockroach, Brown banded cockroach, and the Oriental cockroach. Cockroaches live and feed in unhygienic places such as sewers and drains, or feed on garbage that may be contaminated. These insects are cold-blooded and thrive in warm, humid conditions. However cockroaches will make their home wherever they find food, moisture and shelter. A population of cockroaches can build quickly if not kept in check. . A female German cockroach carries an egg capsule containing around 40 eggs. She drops the capsule prior to hatching. Development from eggs to adults takes 3 to 4 months. Cockroaches live up to a year. The female may produce up to eight egg cases in a lifetime; in favourable conditions, she can produce 300 to 400 offspring.

Cockroaches are a health hazard. They carry bacteria on their bodies from sewers, drains and garbage areas and then transmit it to you and your family by visiting your kitchen and bathroom areas. Feeding in such areas as sewers, drains and garbage areas brings them in contact with disease organisms including salmonella and other organisms associated with dysentery, typhoid, hepatitis and tuberculosis. Ingested bacteria can survive in the cockroach's digestive system, sometimes for months or even years, and are passed in its droppings. It is thought that disease is then transmitted to humans when they eat cockroach droppings on contaminated food.



Fleas ~ Fleas are wingless insects with mouthparts adapted for piercing skin and sucking blood. . Fleas are external parasites, living off the blood of mammals (including humans) and birds. Fleas are not only a nuisance to humans and their pets, but can cause medical problems including flea allergy dermatitis (FAD), secondary skin irritations and, in extreme cases, anaemia, tapeworms, stomach flu.

Dogs and cats are common 'reservoirs' for fleas. .Infested animals should be treated fortnightly for several weeks. If your pet has fleas it is recommended that you consult your veterinarian for a range of appropriate flea-killing products and have your property treated by a professional to ensure thorough elimination.



Possums ~ The Common Ringtail Possum and the Common Brushtail Possum are the focus of complaints by some urban residents. Possums frequently spend the day in the roof cavity of houses, where their urine may damage plaster and can chew wiring or cause anxiety because of the loud vocalisations and thumping in the ceiling when two possums are squabbling. These noises may continue at night, as possums may not emerge from the roof until well after dark.

Possums frequently cross house roofs on their way to feeding areas. A Common Brushtail Possum that is running can make heavy thumping noises on a roof. If two possums are fighting on the roof, the heavy thumping noises are accompanied by loud squealing calls can be distracting. A large part of the diet of both the Common Brushtail Possum and the Common Ringtail Possum comprises the leaves, buds, flowers and fruits of many garden plants. Certain plants may be the focus of repeated feeding by possums for many days or even weeks. Such concentrated feeding may cause severe defoliation or even death of plants.



Rodents ~ Rodents are pests that can cause considerable damage to buildings and electrical wiring. Food, clothing, furniture, books and many other household items are contaminated by their droppings and urine, or damaged by their gnawing. Rodents are also capable of transmitting disease to humans, through their bite or by contaminating food or utensils with bacteria, which can cause food poisoning.

There are three common rodents in Australia that are classified as pests to humans, they are the Norway rat, the Roof rat and the House mouse. To prevent or reduce rodents breeding or entering your property, several simple steps should be taken:

Remove all sources of food:

- Cover bins, don't leave pet food out overnight, store human or pet food in sealed containers with lids, clean up seed from caged birds, cease feeding wild birds, remove yellow seeds from palm trees and macadamia nuts from the ground.
- Remove or prevent access to breeding sites:
- Block up holes in walls where rats can enter, clean yards, sheds, under houses and attic spaces.
- Trap and/or use bait to eliminate remaining rats:
- When used correctly rodent bait, snap traps and cage traps are all effective in the control of rats.

Call Reliance Pest Management for effective and safe methods to control your rodent problems.



Silverfish ~ Silverfish are small, soft, wingless insects often found in the home. They are nocturnal and move quickly. Silverfish prefer damp, moderate temperatures. Places such as basements, laundry rooms and under sinks and even roof cavities. Occasionally you can find them in bath tubs, looking for food or moisture. Silver fish prefer vegetable matter, however when inside they will eat almost anything, such as, flour, starch, paper, glue, cotton, linen, silk, sugar, breakfast cereals, wall paper paste,

books and papers. Silverfish consume small amounts of human foods and can cause contamination with their scales and droppings. They can also cause considerable damage to natural/synthetic fibres, books and other paper products while trying to feed on glues or other starchy substances.



Spiders ~ Spiders thrive in heat and humidity. Australia is home to some of the most poisonous spiders in the world, including the funnel web spider, red back spider, mouse spider, white tailed spider, black house spider and the wolf spider.

Spiders usually build their homes in dusty, undisturbed areas. It seems like their favourite place is inside shoes and gardening gloves left carelessly outside. A spiders diet consists of flies, mosquitoes and other household pests. While all spiders possess venom, many are too small (such as the daddy long legs) to commit a bite, while others (such as the huntsman) are non - aggressive and will only attack when severely provoked. It is a good idea to get yourself a SPIDER IDENTIFICATION CHART (can be downloaded on our home page, just click on the spider identification tab) so that you know which spiders are venomous, which should be removed by a professional and which species are harmless.



Termites ~ Termites/white ants are social insects that build large nests in soil or wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures. Termites form nests either in trees, in soil mounds or underground. There are 5 main nest types and many species will build more than one type of nest:

1. Ground mounds
2. Tree nests (outside tree, connected to internal cavity)
3. Pole nests (on human structures such as fence posts and telegraph poles)
4. Subterranean nests (underground, in soil, stumps and tree bases)
5. Tree wood (inside the tree)

Termites eat wood to get cellulose, sugars and starches from the sapwood (outer wood) of trees and can also eat any wooden structures, including logs, stumps and human constructions. Termites have several castes that have definite roles within the colony:

- **Queen/s:** there is usually one main queen who may have been the original founder of the colony. She is larger than other colony members.
- **King:** the original king fertilises the queen and helps to tend the young during the foundation of the colony.
- **Workers:** with white-bodies and thin skin, these are the most numerous in the colony and are involved in gathering food, feeding and tending the young and the queen, and building or maintaining the nest.
- **Soldiers:** are the colony defenders. They are sometimes larger than workers, but mostly the same size, with darker heads.
- **Reproductive's** - both winged and wingless: these are the future kings and queens.

If you find termites in or around your property, it is essential that you DO NOT disturb them.

People often react by removing damaged timber or spraying exposed termites with household insecticides. This drives termites away from where they were discovered and makes eradication much more difficult. If you do find an infestation it is ideal that you leave the infested area alone and contact Reliance Pest Management immediately for an inspection of your property and advice on the best protective measures available.



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Ticks ~ Ticks are parasites that feed on human and animal blood. Ticks, like many insects, occur in humid, moist bushy areas. Ticks are not very mobile but rely on passing animals to both feed on and transport them, they may appear to drop onto clothing after brushing past bushes or trees or may fall from overhanging branches, especially around clothes lines.

Remove a tick as soon as possible after locating it. Use fine pointed tweezers and grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. Gently pull the tick straight out with steady pressure. If you have difficulty, seek medical attention. Do not try to kill the tick with methylated spirits or any other chemicals. This will cause the tick to inject more toxins.



Wasps ~ The most common pest wasp in Australia is the European wasp. Wasps defend their nests fiercely in summer. They are attracted to sweet foods, ripe fruit and even soft drink. Therefore, they may crawl inside a drink can or be found near rubbish bins. The nest may be in a roof space, hanging in a tree, shrub or in the eaves, in an air vent, or in the ground.

The nest is filled with layers of papery comb made from chewed wood fibres. The sting of the European wasp does not contain barbs like those found on the sting of a honey bee, therefore the wasp can sting a victim repeatedly. When feeling threatened a wasp is also able to release an alarm pheromone attracting other wasps to the sting site. The venom from the sting of a European wasp contains several toxins, which may cause hypersensitive or allergic reactions in some people.

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