



Hassle Free Home Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 59619
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What is a Stink Bug?

There are about 260 species of stink bugs in the family Pentatomidae that are commonly found in North America, just over a dozen of which are frequently reported inside of homes each year. Many of the members of this family have scent glands which emit a noxious odor as a defensive agent against predators. The stink bugs can be quite large: anywhere from 1/6 to one inch in length. As winter draws near, these bugs have a tendency to find their way into homes, looking for a place to hide. Stink bugs do not do damage to your home, but they are unsightly, annoying pests and can be difficult to remove.

Some common Stink Bugs in our area.



Before stink bugs move into your house, they may be in your garden, where they also cause problems. In gardens they drink the sap from leaves, flowers, buds, squash, beans, corn, tomatoes, and peaches. Getting rid of stink bugs in your home will be different than getting rid of them in your garden. For example, in your garden, attracting parasitic wasps to kill stink bug pupae will be a realistic and approved method for population reduction, but not so much inside your house.

Where do I start?

The one critical piece of advice when you try to get rid of stink bugs is do not, under any circumstances, crush them. If you do, then the stink that will be released will be something that is far stronger than normal, and it might be difficult to remove from whatever surface you happened to squash them on. It is recommended, then, that as much as possible, try to kill or remove the stink bugs intact.

Now that that's settled, here are some ways you can get the stinky bugs off your property. The best way to get rid of stink bugs from your home is simply to deny them access in the first place. Thoroughly check the outside of your house and make sure that there aren't any cracks or holes that the bugs may use to get inside.



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Place screens on your windows as well as on the doors, and for those that already have them, check to see that they don't have any holes. Most cracks can usually be found around windows, doors, utility pipes, behind chimneys, or underneath wood fascia. If you do see any cracks or holes, cover them up with boards or, better yet, use a silicone caulk. Stink bugs will make their way into your home during the fall when nights start to become cold, so it is very important to check the exterior of your home in the later summer.

What can be done next?

You can treat the outside of your home with chemical repellents. The best time to do this is during fall before they start to migrate inside your home. I would recommend that you call your local exterminator to spray the surrounding area as well as the outside of your home with Cypermethrin. It is a synthetic compound that is primarily used as an insecticide. In insects, it is a fast-acting neurotoxin. It is easily degraded when applied to soils and plants, when applied indoors on inert surfaces, it can be effective for weeks. The spray will allow the pesticide to penetrate much faster. The treatment should be up as high as it can outside your house and allowed to drip down for complete and thorough coverage. A well-sprayed structure will provide an invisible wall of defense that the stink bugs will not be able to penetrate. Most homes will require two to three gallons of the treatment to get good coverage so it's up to you whether it is worth it to have added protection from stink bugs. If you decide to do it yourself, you need to be cautious, and test the product on a discreet area of your house prior to doing the whole house to make sure that it does not create any problems with the siding, paint, stucco or other types of surfaces on your home.

Am I having a problem?

If you are seeing more than a dozen of these bugs per day, then based on the location of your home, you may need to take some steps for prevent these guys from coming in. It is normal to see some of these bugs around the house, just like "Lady Bugs". However, it would be best to see them outside, not inside. In the end, these bugs will not hurt you; they are just annoying and unsightly.

Who do I call if I have questions?

You can call your Home Manager at any time. We would be happy speak with you and/or come out and take look at what is going on and complete an evaluation.