



A-ALL PEST TERMITE EXTERMINATORS, INC.  
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# The Party Animal News

## Ants, Rats and Mosquitoes...Oh My!!

### Termite Inspections

**If you have not had a termite inspection at your home for a while you might consider having one done. The average age of a home to be affected by termites in the North Texas area is 10 years. If you would like to have the home checked just give us a call and we'll be happy to send someone out to check it over.**

**Clip this offer and present it at the time of service and you will receive 10% off your inspection!**

*We VALUE our customers!*

#### Insect of the Quarter:

#### Roof Rats

- **Nocturnal**—seen day-time when populations are high
- **Reproduce monthly**
- **Prefer to live high up in trees or attics**

When they are looking for the possibility of life on other planets scientists look for water.

When entomologists or pest control operators are looking for pests we look for sources of water.

We are in a drought in Texas but the recent rainfalls have provided an environment for the six legged and four legged pests to not only easily survive but to also flourish.

I have had many outside sightings of rats over the past two weeks. The rodent population may be rising enough that outside control programs may be needed around your property.

With the recent downpours the

ants often build their nests on higher ground. This might be a good time for some outside control if you want to reduce some of the ant activity in the yard.

Of course, every time it rains it gives the female mosquito a place to lay eggs (rain gutters that are clogged, plant holders that do not drain properly, French drains). These areas need to be drained, cleaned and if this is not possible place some mosquito dunks in this water.

I was interviewing one of my industry famous pest magazine contributors Harry Katz; he emphasized the point that if there is no moisture in an area

the possibility of insects is diminished. He then tells how he was one of the first pest control operators to recommend a meter to check the moisture in the walls of homes. At the time he went to great lengths to find a company in England that made moisture meters. Today we do use the meters for termites and sometime hard to explain insect infestations.

Harry also described how in the 1950s they used a lot of dust because they worked to break down the exoskeleton of the insect which in turn causes the insect to lose moisture and die. Some of these techniques are still used today to combat these pests.

- David

### Roof Rats

As stated above, this has been an unusual year for roof rats. If you want outside rodent control it involves monthly treatments using bait stations or snap stations. The reason monthly control is needed is because rodent reproduce every 30 days. If you only did it every three months the population will be able to rebound every couple of months. In this case, you would be wasting your money. If you do rodent control on a monthly basis you would see a difference in the outside population.



### Outside Entertaining

Don't let a little West Nile Virus stop your investment in your backyard entertainment. You do not have to be stuck inside. Be responsible for making your environment pest free. Have you properly cleaned your grill if rodents have been in that area? I use hot water and disinfected with appropriate cleansers when I have cleaned grills in the pest. Mosquitoes can be controlled with once a month spray treatments and control of standing water. Finally, do you see wasps sipping from the pool? You may have a nest close by that needs to be destroyed.

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EXTERMINATORS, INC.  
972-241-5223

17819 Davenport Rd Ste 335  
Dallas, TX 75252

Phone: 972-241-5223

E-mail: [aallpest@yahoo.com](mailto:aallpest@yahoo.com)

Web: [atticpartyanimals.com](http://atticpartyanimals.com)



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## A-All Friends



**Mike Merchant**  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Professor and Extension Urban Entomologist

David met Mike Merchant when he was working on his B.S. at Purdue University and Mike was working on his PhD. Dr. Merchant now designs informational materials and training programs to help reduce pesticide use and promote use of low impact pesticides for schools and other institutional facilities. He develops training materials and continuing education programs on pests and integrated pest management for the public. His research interests include control of fire ants in electrical equipment and in urban landscapes; low impact pesticides; spider management; documentation of Formosan Termite range expansion in Texas; and improvement of existing termite control technologies.

When we have an insect sample we need identified we drop it off to Dr. Merchant and he is able to provide an identification. This is a service offered to the public as well. He also provides an interesting blog to our industry called "Insects in the City".



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