



A-ALL PEST TERMITE EXTERMINATORS, INC.  
972-241-5223

Attic  
Party  
Animals?  
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## The Party Animal News

### What's in Your Attic?

#### Rodent Inspections

**If you have not had a Rodent inspection at your home for a while you might consider having one done. With house movement a crack the size of a quarter can allow a rat to enter an attic. 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!**

If you store items in your attic like we do at our home, have you ever thought maybe I should not store that in the attic?

Do try to give it a second thought and here are some really good reasons why. Over the years I have discovered pest problems in homes that originated in the attic. Now, a food source can be a strong attractant, and the thing is, you might think something people don't want to eat is not a problem, but it could be something, for example, that a carpet beetle might eat (furs maybe).

One house I inspected for carpet beetles had a hatch leading into the attic from the closet where the carpet beetles were attacking and damaging some clothes.

Whenever there is an infestation like this there is usually an item that is heavily infested and I did not find it in the closet. I got a ladder and went into the attic and sure enough some old fur hats probably from the sixties had been stored over this closet in the attic. The carpet beetles started at this source and moved down into the closet.

Carpet beetles might start in an attic from some old rodenticide baits or even some bird or squirrel nest that might have been in the attic.

Other food items could be decorative wreathes with real pecans or real decorative corn stored in the attic. These can cause stored product pests to

begin in the attic and then eventually migrate into the house and go after food in the pantry.

Just storing books in the attic can begin a silverfish problem. They can live in these papers and damage the paper with holes. If you have to store papers in the attic place the papers in a plastic bin.

If you have valuable wools and furs maybe they should be in the house and not the attic. And no form of food should be in the attic. A-All does not use rat baits in attics, it causes too many problems.

You should think twice before storing items that might attract bugs or animals in the attic.

Hope you have a Happy Holiday!  
-David

### Overwintering Pests

There are several pests that like to overwinter in the home including crickets, wasps and rodents.

Sometimes they like to enter the cracks and crevices of a home and just wait until spring for the temperature to elevate before they go back outside. However, as we all know, we really do not have winters around here. What happens is that the outside temperatures rise and somehow the insects' hibernation stage is interrupted and the insects start to move around. With wasps many of them end up in the house.

If this is happening in your home, the best way to prevent this wasp invasion is to let us do some treatments to prevent further occurrences. Timing a treatment before the major hibernation cycle begins may be needed. Sometimes with wasps a temporary closure of the fireplace with tape and plastic can be helpful.

Trying to prevent insects from entering the cracks of a structure is impossible because homes are not constructed with tightness in mind. We can close holes to prevent rodents (sizes of dimes and quarters) but when we look at the crack an insect can squeeze into (a flat putty knife size), then the goal of perfect closures is diminished. Regular pesticide treatments are needed in this case.

*We VALUE our customers!*

#### Insect of the Quarter:

#### Wasp

- Like to hibernate in chimney flues in winter
- Can prevent entry with a tight damper.

**If you ever have a possible bug or part of a bug PLEASE save it! That will help us to identify the problem more quickly, target the correct pest and begin treatment sooner.**

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# Attic Party Animals?<sup>sm</sup>

## A-All Friends

This December Ann and I drove to Houston to take Emile and Fran Pappas to the Greater Houston Pest Control Association meeting. He was 88 years old that day and the state association president honored Emile with a framed certificate thanking him for his service to the industry. Only a couple months ago he finally sold his company to his son.



**Emile Pappas with  
David & Ann**

When I interviewed him for a video a few years ago he had some interesting stories. He was in both WWII and the Korean War. His job was fixing torpedoes and depth charges but since he had some pest control experience the Navy came to Emile to fix ant problems on their hospital ships.

On a side note, he also got picked to escort the Andrew Sisters around during a tour because they were of Greek ancestry like Emile. When Ann and I dropped Emile and Fran back to their home Ann was looking at the picture of Emile, two Navy buddies and the Andrew Sisters and he said, "I have had a really good life."



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