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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winter Pests Pose Property Damage and Health Risks

Terminix Triad offers pest-proofing tips to prevent unwanted guests

GREENSBORO, NC (February 7, 2008) – With the Triad enduring the heart of winter and the threat of freezing temperatures pervading the forecast, some of nature’s smallest creatures are seeking ways to adapt to the biting cold conditions. However, adopting simple pest-proofing techniques around the house can prevent winter’s unwanted guests, like mice and rats, from dropping by for a house visit while also eliminating the threat of property damage and the spread of harmful diseases.

The National Pest Management Association (NPMA) indicates that pests invade an estimated 21 million homes in the United States every winter. According to the NPMA, mice can chew through walls, baseboards and electrical wiring en route to inflicting damage to a home. In addition, the NPMA estimates that mice are capable of dropping fecal pellets nearly 70 times a day and those droppings can trigger allergies, and spread disease.

“Pests don’t go away when it gets warmer, cooler, dryer, wetter, or windier, they simply adapt to the environment,” commented Terminix Triad Director of Operations Burns Blackwell. “Mice only need an opening the size of a nickel to get into a home, while other pests can use much smaller holes, and their version of adapting to cold weather may mean moving into your house for the winter.”

The good news, says Blackwell, is that there are several steps residents can take to prevent pests from infesting their home. “It’s important to practice integrated pest management, and take the steps to prevent and eliminate pests,” says Blackwell.

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“Maintaining your home by sealing cracks or holes, especially around areas where pipes or utility lines enter the house is the first step. Also, keep in mind that most pests are climbers, so paying attention to the condition of your roof and repairing any rotten wood, shingles, or trim areas is another safeguard.” While many believe pests only invade older homes, even new homes are susceptible and Blackwell advises residents to keep all doors, windows and vents sealed during the winter.

If the more common pests, like rodents, are already in the home, getting rid of the unwanted visitors is sometimes extremely difficult. Blackwell indicates that setting out snap and glue traps, or rodent stations, can be effective but typically do not deter rodent infestation. “If you catch one or two mice in snap-traps, that may indicate that you’ve got a whole family of rodents in the home,” says Blackwell.

Blackwell does believe that the proactive homeowner can prevent most pest infestation problems. However, he acknowledges that not all situations are easily fixed by the common mousetrap. When problems cannot be easily remedied and professionals are needed, Blackwell indicates that homeowners need to contact pest companies that offer integrated services, customizable services for each home, and guarantee their work. “A trained professional will do a complete home inspection before suggesting any treatment because each house is different and requires different services. In addition, consumers should seek companies that offer multiple service programs, rather than a one-time pest service, and that offer assurance on the services they provide.”

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About Terminix Triad

One of the oldest family-owned Terminix franchises, Terminix Triad has serviced customers throughout the Triad and northwestern North Carolina since 1931. Terminix Triad’s 190 associates serve a 17 county footprint by offering pest, termite, and moisture control solutions for the home and office. Parent company, Terminix International Co., is based in Memphis, Tenn., and has a worldwide network of locations, including 864 service centers throughout the United States and in 14 countries around the world. Terminix is a part of the ServiceMaster Quality Service Network. For further information, visit terminix-triad.com.