

The PestRite Post is a seasonal publication. For more information about PestRite, please visit our website at www.PestRite.com or call 800.459.2847

Fun Facts

During WWII, bats were fitted with incendiary devices to be used as "bat bombs." Although the bats proved to be very effective, the project was canceled before any bats were dropped on Japan.

Mice have tails as long as their bodies.

A cockroach can sometimes live for up to a month without its head.



Announcements

Because of peanut allergies, PestRite is phasing out peanut butter and replacing it with sunflower butter.

Moving? Take us with you. Call PestRite at 800.459.2847 for a free pest inspection.

Congratulations Glenda Rogers of Longmont, winner of our Free Service drawing.

Customer Thoughts

When you consider the area and number of buildings PestRite provides services for here at The Ranch without incident of rodents or pests, it shows what quality and level of service PestRite provides. Your technicians are always attentive and address our requests immediately. Most issues are resolved within a few days or weeks, and some are just ongoing seasonal issues that the technicians are always on top of without even a mention or reminder from me.

Thom Jones

Budweiser Event Center/The Ranch

Recession Tempts Some Landlords to Reduce Pest Control Inspections

The combination of cold weather and lagging economy raises the risk of cockroach and rodent infestations for apartment dwellers as landlords cut costs. "Homeowners report that their greatest pest concern is bedbugs, but because roaches, mice, and rats reproduce so quickly, a building can become infested in only a few months, threatening people's health and environment" warns Dan Bolen, a team leader at PestRite. A smarter, and often less-expensive approach, is to conduct regular inspections with a reliable pest management company. Issues are caught early, when they are less costly to fix.

The pace with which pest populations can grow "tends to take people by surprise," says Leonard Douglan of the New Jersey Pest Management Association. He adds, "For every two [cockroaches] you see, there can be several hundred you do not."

Rats can breed within three months of their birth. With a gestation period of only twenty-two days and an average litter of eight, one rat can rapidly become 100.

Mice reproduce quickly too. German cockroaches, the most prolific in the U.S., mature in thirty-six days and females can lay thirty to forty-eight eggs four to eight times in their lifetime.

Termites as Sustainable Fuel

Termite damage costs the U.S. more than \$1 billion each year, but that same destructive power might help solve one of the nation's most pressing economic quandaries: sustainable fuel production.

After years of genetic sequencing, University of Florida researchers are beginning to harness the insects' ability to churn wood into fuel. The team has identified nearly 200 associated enzymes that help break down the problematic plant compound lignocellulose. This compound is the most costly barrier to wide-scale production of cellulosic ethanol because it must be broken down by intense heat or caustic chemicals.



Termites, however, are able to almost completely break down lignocellulose through simple digestion.

Mice don't like CHEESE

An expert will solve your rodent problem right. Get a **FREE inspection & 10% off.**



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Expires 3/31/10. Not valid with any other offer.



DETECTRITE *detective*

The 411 for homeowners and property managers

Issue Q1, 2010

State Law Mandates Carbon Monoxide Detectors

House Bill 1091, passed by the Colorado Legislature and signed into law in 2009, requires carbon monoxide alarms in homes (including mobile and manufactured homes) that are for sale. Rental housing such as apartments are subject to the same provisions. Sellers and landlords of such homes must provide alarms near bedrooms if the home has a fuel-burning heater or appliance, a fireplace, and/or an attached garage. Alarms are also required for new home construction and when upgrades to a home require a building permit.

Called “the silent killer,” carbon monoxide (CO) sends thousands of people to the emergency room each year as a result of the gas produced by malfunctioning fuel-burning appliances. CO can build up over time. Vague symptoms like headache, lethargy, dizziness, and generally “feeling sick” are often ignored, but 170 die from the poisonous gas annually.

How to buy a CO Detector

Carbon monoxide detectors range from about \$30-\$60 with no significant cost difference for battery operated versus electric models. If you’re not one to check and replace batteries, an electric unit is a solid option. While some are hardwired, others plug into an outlet. Just make sure it has a battery back-up should the electricity go out.

Higher-end models come with peak CO level memory, which remembers the highest levels of CO registered over a given period of time. This helps emergency personnel determine the severity of the problem and can tell you if the detector sensed high CO levels while you were away.

If someone in your family is hard of hearing, buy a detector with special light features like a strobe. Also, many alarms have an LCD display, but LED displays are easier to read in dim light.

Combination smoke and CO alarms are available, often with voice recordings that announce “Fire! Fire!” or “Warning: Carbon Monoxide.”

Finally, many alarms need to be replaced in five to ten years. Follow your manufacture’s recommendations for replacing your CO detector.



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800.459.2847

DETECTRITE
Professional Real Estate Inspection & Repair Services
A Division of BlueCorp

Announcements

Visit us at the Apartment Association of Southern Colorado’s expo on February 12 at the Crown Plaza, Colorado Springs. Stop by our table for a free 2010 calendar.

DetectRite welcomes the newest member of our customer service team, Kathy Measor.

Louisville, CO is number one on Money’s 2009 list of Best Places to Live. Why? Affordable housing, great schools, and easy access to the Rocky Mountains.

Ask an Expert: How can I keep a fire I want from starting one I don’t?

Clean chimneys don’t catch fire. Make sure a CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep inspects your system annually and cleans and repairs it when needed. Creosote, which is very combustible, builds up in chimneys with each use. Variables like restricted air supply, unseasoned wood, and cooler-than-normal temperatures can accelerate the buildup. To reduce your chance of a chimney fire, follow these simple tips.

- Use seasoned woods only. Dryness is more important than whether the wood is hard or soft.
- Build smaller, hotter fires that burn more completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper, trash, or greenery.
- If you have a wood stove, install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor the flue temperatures.