



Getting Rid of Stinkbugs



Stink bugs first arrived in Allentown, PA in the mid-1990's and have since spread from PA to NJ, DE, MD, VA, OH and other states.

When stink bugs invade your home, they hide in curtains, drawers, laundry or bedding. They get their name from the smell they release that protects them from being eaten by birds and other animals. Unfortunately, this odor also keeps them coming back to their favorite spots and camping out for a long time. More than just annoying, they can damage roses, vegetables, ornamental plants and trees. Here's how to take immediate action before the infestation gets out of control.

1. Haul out the vacuum cleaner. It can be used on dead or live bugs. While it will take care of them for the moment (like when you know you will have guests coming over), it only reduces the population temporarily if your home has become a hibernating den for these pests.



2. Start outdoors. Use products such as Bayer Complete Insect Killer or Ortho BugBGone Max. These products are available at Longenecker's Hardware in ready-to-spray, concentrate, or granular form.

3. Some companies recommend using a "spreader sticker" since the stink bug's skin is tough and may not be vulnerable to some insecticides. Spray the treatment up high on the outside of your house and let it drip down for thorough coverage. These are best applied in the fall just before the bugs start their invasion. This is also best done during the day when it is warmer and the bugs may be out foraging for food before they come in and find a place to sleep at night.

4. Move indoors. There are some aerosol treatments available for also treating the inside of your home. We also carry a product called Ortho Home Defense Max which you can spray around the outside perimeter of your home, as well as spray around edges of interior floors to prevent stink bugs from gaining entry to your home.



WARNINGS & TIPS

- * Stink bugs may be attracted to light, so turn off porch and deck lights when it's not necessary to have them on.
- * Seal cracks around windows, doors, siding, utility pipes, behind chimneys and openings to the outside with silicone or silicone-latex caulk.
- * Repair damaged screens on doors and windows. Inside, use caulk around cracks near baseboards, around window and door trim, and around exhaust fans or lights fixtures mounted in ceilings to keep the stinkbugs from crawling out.
- * Do not handle stink bugs with bare hands. Some people are allergic to the substance they emit. Some species can bite.
- * If you use pesticides, always follow the directions on the labels. Always store in the original containers and where children, pets, and farm animals cannot reach them.

