

5 Critical Questions to ask before selecting a Pest Control Company

1. HOW LONG HAS THE COMPANY BEEN IN BUSINESS?

You need a company with a proven track record . . . one that will be around for the long-term.

2. IS THE PEST CONTROL COMPANY PROACTIVE?

Your pest control company should have a proactive plan to keep rodents out of your structure - before they get in and contaminate your living or work space.

3. WILL A TRAINED, CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN INSPECT AND TREAT MY HOME OR BUSINESS?

The technician inspecting and treating your home or business should be professionally trained and continually educated. Truly Nolen employs trainers who make sure our state-certified technicians are up to speed on the latest technology and most advanced techniques available.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN THE INDUSTRY. DOES YOUR COMPANY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS?

Your pest control company should use state-of-the-art methods that are environmentally sensitive. Truly Nolen combines its knowledge about rodent behavior with the strategic application of baits in tamper-proof stations, mechanical trapping and exclusion to impact the rodent infestation in your structure.

5. WHAT IS THE COST OF THE PEST CONTROL SERVICE?

There are many variables in the price that pest management companies charge. What you are purchasing is protection - for your home or business, your family and your customers. While Truly Nolen is not the least expensive, we take great pride in delivering the most value for your money. Keep in mind that the difference between the most and least expensive companies is often just a dollar a day.

Ask your Truly Nolen inspector for a . . .

Complimentary Pest Inspection

You'll receive a written report describing the pest management tasks that need to be addressed in your home or business. You'll find that this report is a valuable tool, regardless of your final decision.



[Location] Pest Division
[address]



Truly on . . . the Pack Rat

"Need to know" information
on pest issues
and pest management



Courtesy of the
[Location] Pest Division

1-000-000-0000

Facts

- Also known as the wood rat and the trade rat, the pack rat is found in the Sonoran and Mohave Deserts, Nevada, southern and western Utah, southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

- A pack rat can cause major property damage. Most notable is the pack rat's adventures in the engine compartment of an infrequently used vehicle. It strips the casing from electrical wiring for use as nesting material, then stops up the air intakes with that nesting materials. If the pack rat is able to enter a structure, it will chew up electrical wiring, which can cause a fire hazard.



- The female has an average of two pups per litter and one to five litters per year. Reproduction is more pronounced in the spring and increases when environmental conditions are ideal (i.e., plentiful food, shelter, moderate temperatures).



- The pack rat commonly builds ground level dens under and around cacti, especially prickly pear and century plants. This sheltered, underground lair provides protection from climatic extremes.

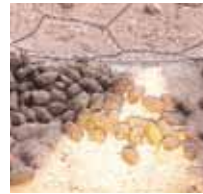
The thorny cacti pads serve as a first line of defense against the pack rat's predators. A single rodent can have several dens, with multiple points of ingress and egress.

- The rodent has a tendency to collect objects and pieces of material for use in the construction of its nest. It is especially fond of small, shiny objects and will quickly make off with a trinket.



Signs of Infestation

- ✓ Any sign of a fortified nest or burrow containing materials from adjacent sources, such as plant parts, paper debris and materials.
- ✓ Evidence of debris and cigar-shaped droppings (1/3"-3/4" long) in and around cactus adjacent to a structure.
- ✓ Evidence of stripped electrical wiring (e.g., in an attic or garage, under the hood of a car, etc.).
- ✓ Urine stains in corners.
- ✓ Chew marks on cacti.
- ✓ A 3"-4" wide trail created by the rodent's body movements when it displaces soil or sand during its travels.



While a pack rat will consume human food if the opportunity exists, it chiefly feeds out of doors. Its diet is basically vegetarian, consisting of cactus pods, tree bark, nuts, seeds and other green plant material. Its primary source of water is succulent plants (or cacti).

This rodent is one of the few animals that can successfully navigate the savage thorns of desert vegetation in its endeavor to feast on the juicy pads of a cactus. The thorny nature of its surroundings serve to protect the pack rat's den from approach by predators, including snakes, coyotes and owls.

Physical Characteristics

The adult rodent weighs 8-10 ounces, is up to 15-1/2" (including tail), and has large ears and dark eyes. It has smooth buff-gray colored fur, a gray belly, white hind feet, and a long tail that is sparsely covered with hair.



Pack Rat Traits

- ✓ Acute sense of taste, smell and touch. Smell is used extensively for mating, to find food and to scout for empty, habitable nests.
- ✓ Dislikes open spaces, due to its vulnerability to predators.
- ✓ Navigates along walls and under protective plant material to avoid natural predators.
- ✓ Curious and always exploring.
- ✓ Can jump as high as two to three feet.
- ✓ Can climb rough walls, pipes, wires, etc.

Impact

In addition to costly property damage, the pack rat is the host animal for a bloodsucking insect known as the Conenose bug or "kissing bug." The adult insect is 3/4" long, with a dark brown to black flattened abdomen that is distinctly marked with six equally spaced, reddish orange spots on each side of the abdomen. The "kissing bug" feeds on the blood of rats and other mammals, including humans. The bite of the "kissing bug" can be a significant health issue for 2-3% of the human population, who will experience a severe allergic reaction to the bite. In some cases, the allergic reaction leads to anaphylactic shock, which can result in death.



Treatment

Step #1 **Live trapping** is the safest and most effective method of controlling a pack rat population. Traps are placed as close as possible (within 6"-7") to the entrance and exit points of each nest. **DO NOT DISTURB THE NEST AT THIS TIME.**



Step #2 **Nest removal** is initiated as the rodent is trapped. **Why?** To prevent a new pack rat from moving into the abandoned nest. The abandoned nest itself poses a serious threat as it contains rodent excrement and harbors numerous parasites and other pests, such as fleas, kissing bugs, brown spiders, roaches and scorpions. If the nest is not treated and removed, the parasites in the nest will seek out other hosts, including humans and pets.

Step #3 **Material application** in and around the nesting site(s) is needed to eradicate any remaining insects. If necessary, some exclusion will be performed.