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 pests out of your structure - before they get in and contaminate your living or work space. Many pest control companies are reactive, treating pests after they have penetrated your environment. That doesn't keep bugs away for long, and it can actually compound the problem.

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 technicians combine the strategic application of baits with natural, long-lasting materials to treat the interior of 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 Scorpion

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

Courtesy of the
[Location] Pest Division
1-000-000-0000

Facts

- The scorpion belongs to the Arachnida family, which includes spiders. There are 1,200 scorpion species worldwide, with 90 found in the U. S. and 30 in Arizona.

- It is believed to be one of the first creatures to transition from sea to land about 400 million years ago. Scorpions account for some of the oldest arachnid fossils ever found.

- Scorpions were once several feet long. What a frightening thought! The average length of a scorpion is 2-1/2 inches, with the largest measuring 6 inches.

- A female produces live offspring. They do not emerge from an egg sac, like many other arachnida.

- The young crawl onto the female's back immediately after birth. Why? They feel protected and remain on her back for five to fifteen days.

- A crack as small as 1/16 inch, which is equivalent to the thickness of a quarter, can accommodate a scorpion. This makes most structures quite accessible to the scorpion.

- Scorpions have a very low metabolic rate, so they must only feed from five to fifty times per year.

- What's the best way to observe a scorpion in its environment? Use an ultraviolet or black light. The scorpion's hardened cuticle fluoresces, making it "glow in the dark."

- The scorpion has very poor eye sight.

- Its tail has two glands. One injects a fast-acting venom and the other a potent neuro-tranquilizer.

Habits The scorpion spends the vast majority of its time tucked away in a crack or crevice, under a log or stone, in a woodpile or nestled in the bark of a tree.

While the scorpion has a vicious appearance, this nocturnal creature is not an aggressive hunter. Rather, it lies in wait for its next meal to just wander by. What attracts the scorpion to a particular environment? Four conditions must exist for the scorpion to survive -

- a food source
- organic debris (indicated by specific odors)
- harborage (cracks and crevices)
- a moisture source

Its favorite meal might consist of crickets, roaches, spiders, small lizards and even other scorpions.

Once within grasp, the scorpion seizes its victim with its powerful pincers, then stings or squeezes its prey to death.

Conditions Conducive to Infestation

- human garbage (odors that attract insects)
- under loose fitting shingles (harborage)
- organic matter in and around gardens and plant pots
- under and around rock beds
- old lumber (its decaying so it attracts insects)
- bricks (hiding place)
- J-trim (leaks odors, frequently organic, and heat from the house)
- decaying matter or damaged or loose bark
- organic debris (leaf matter; a favorite hangout for cockroaches)
- harborage in and around stored boxes
- in shoes and soiled clothing (attracted to organic and moisture odors like perspiration and foot odor in worn shoes) - see photo right

- around light fixtures (a warm place to hide)

- in wall voids & conduits (used to move around once conditions conducive exist in environment) - see photo right of void in exterior door jamb.
- insect infested areas in attic, with special attention around recessed lighting and exterior light penetrations.

Impact

The sting of most scorpions found in the U.S. is no more venomous than that of a wasp. However, young children, the elderly and individuals who are allergic to scorpion venom or have other medical issues may experience serious health consequences from a scorpion sting. A serious reaction can affect the victim's central nervous system.

BASIC FIRST AID FOR A SCORPION STING

It is imperative that children and those experiencing a severe reaction be seen by a health professional immediately! REMAIN CALM and contact the local poison control center, an emergency facility, or a personal physician.

Treatment

Step #1 **Exclusion**
Involves sealing cracks, crevices, holes, window and door frames, openings around utility access points, as well as screening soffits and vents to "build out" the pest.

Step #2
Elimination of food supply
A general and consistent pest management program eliminates the scorpion's food source, which includes crickets, roaches and spiders. Also, the customer needs to reduce water sources by irrigating responsibly and repairing any leaks.

Step #3
Eradication of scorpions present in the environment
The scorpion population within a structure can survive without a food source. A thorough inspection is needed, with direct application of the appropriate materials to suspect areas.