

Ants

(Pavement Ant, Odorous House Ant, Black Carpenter Ant): These three ants are the most common in St. Louis, MO. The Pavement Ant is black and will nest outdoors; they will come indoors to forage for food. The Odorous House Ant is the most common household ant in our area. They look like Pavement Ants but will nest indoors. When crushed, these ants give off an odor that smells like coconut. The Black Carpenter Ant hollows out spaces in wood for nesting. They are most common around windows, doors, decks, and gutters where wood for nesting is available.



Brown Recluse Spider

Recognized by a distinctive violin-shaped mark behind its eyes, the brown recluse is common in the Midwest. It is often found in sheds, garages and undisturbed closets. Their bite causes a red zone and surrounding crust which, when it falls off, can leave a deep crater which requires extensive medical attention.



Bed Bugs

Also known as *Cimex lectularius*, bed bugs are brown to reddish-brown, oval-shaped, flattened, and about 3/16 to 1/5 inch long. Bed bugs can be easily seen by the naked eye, but their flat shape enables them to easily hide in cracks and crevices. Bed bugs are parasites that feed on humans or other warm-blooded animals and can be found in mattresses, box springs, and bed frames.



Fleas

Small, hard-bodied, wingless insects, fleas feed on blood. Their bite leaves a red, itchy spot on the skin. Their saliva acts as an irritant, causing dermatitis and hair loss in allergic animals.



Roaches

Nocturnal and producing eggs naturally protected from insecticides, cockroaches can invade a home quickly. They enter our homes through cracks and crevices, vents, sewer and drain pipes. We even bring them in on products like grocery bags, boxes, and purses. The dust created by cast-off cockroach skins, dead bodies, and droppings can act as a severe allergen for sensitive individuals.



Termites

Social insects found in wood and wood products, termites eat cellulose for nutrition. The two most common types of termites are "dry wood" and "ground" termites. Both types of termites are categorized as either a "flying termite" or a "winged reproductive". These winged termites are new kings and queens attempting to establish a new colony.

