



PEST INSPECTION CHECKLIST FOR MINNESOTA HOMEOWNERS



Buying or moving into a new home is an exciting milestone—but pests don't care if a house is brand new to you. Many infestations begin long before move-in day and go unnoticed until weeks or months later. This checklist helps homeowners identify potential pest and wildlife issues before they become costly problems.

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WHY A PEST INSPECTION MATTERS BEFORE MOVE-IN

Pests can cause:

- Structural damage
- Insulation contamination
- Fire hazards from chewed wiring
- Health risks from droppings and urine
- Recurring infestations if entry points are missed

Even clean, well-maintained homes can hide pest activity behind walls, in attics, or basements

EXTERIOR INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Start outside. Most pest problems begin at the exterior.

Foundation & Structure

- Check foundation walls for cracks, gaps, or shifting
- Inspect around utility and HVAC entry points
- Look for signs of burrowing near the foundation
- Ensure soil is graded away from the home

Roofline & Upper Structure

- Inspect soffits, fascia, and roof edges for damage
- Check attic vents, gable vents, and roof vents
- Ensure chimney caps are secure
- Look for chew marks or staining near roof openings

Windows, Doors & Openings

- Check weather stripping and door sweeps
- Inspect window frames and seals
- Ensure screens are intact and properly fitted
- Look for gaps larger than a quarter inch

Yard & Exterior Environment

- Remove debris piles and leftover construction materials
- Trim branches away from the roofline
- Check sheds and detached garages
- Look for wasp nests under eaves or decks

INTERIOR INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Once inside, focus on hidden and high-risk areas.

Basement & Crawl Space

- Look for droppings, nesting materials, or gnaw marks
- Check for moisture, water stains, or mold odors
- Inspect sill plates and rim joists
- Look for daylight or airflow through gaps

Attic

- Inspect insulation for disturbance or compression
- Look for droppings, urine staining, or nesting
- Check for signs of previous wildlife removal
- Ensure attic vents are properly screened

Kitchen & Utility Areas

- Inspect under sinks for moisture or leaks
- Check behind appliances for droppings
- Look inside cabinets for insect activity
- Inspect pantry shelves and corners

Garage

- Check gaps along the garage door
- Inspect walls and ceiling corners
- Look for rodent trails or droppings
- Check storage areas for nesting activity



SIGNS OF PAST OR CURRENT PEST ACTIVITY

Be alert for:

- Droppings or urine stains
- Scratching, rustling, or thumping sounds
- Chewed wires, wood, or insulation
- Grease marks along walls or baseboards
- Unusual odors, especially in enclosed spaces

Past infestations that were not properly excluded often return.



COMMON PESTS FOUND IN MINNESOTA HOMES

- Mice
- Squirrels and chipmunks
- Raccoons and bats
- Ants and carpenter ants
- Boxelder bugs and stink bugs
- Wasps
- Asian lady beetles
- Spiders
- Centipedes and millipedes

BEFORE YOU MOVE IN: PROACTIVE STEPS

Addressing issues before move-in is faster, cleaner, and far less disruptive.



Schedule a professional pest and wildlife inspection



Resolve insulation insufficiency or contamination early



Address moisture and ventilation issues early



Seal entry points before furniture is moved in



Replace damaged screens and weather stripping



Keep documentation of repairs and inspections



WHEN TO CALL A PROFESSIONAL

A professional inspection is strongly recommended if:

- The home sat vacant for an extended period
- You notice signs of rodents or wildlife
- The home has a history of pest issues
- There is attic, insulation, or structural damage

Professionals can identify hidden problems that general home inspections often miss.

Start Fresh Without Pests

Moving into a new home should be a fresh start, not the beginning of pest problems. A thorough pest inspection and an ongoing prevention plan help decrease pest pressure and ensure your investment stays protected from day one. For Minnesota homeowners, early detection and proper exclusion make all the difference.