ABRA KADABRA
PEST AND WILDLIFE

# HOMEOWNER'S SEASONAL PEST PREVENTION CHECKLIST

A YEAR-ROUND GUIDE FOR MINNESOTA HOMEOWNERS



Pest activity in Minnesota changes with the seasons. Temperature shifts, moisture levels, and wildlife behavior all influence when and how pests try to enter your home. Following a seasonal prevention checklist helps reduce infestations, protect your home's structure, and avoid costly repairs. Use this guide to stay proactive all year long.

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## SPRING: Moisture, Ants, and Wildlife Wake-Up Season

As snow melts and temperatures rise, pests become active again. Spring is one of the most important times for prevention.



## Exterior Checklist

- Inspect the foundation for cracks, gaps, or settling
- Seal openings around utility lines, vents, and pipes
- Check window screens and door sweeps for damage
- Ensure downspouts direct water at least 6 feet away from the foundation
- Trim tree branches and shrubs away from the home
- Remove debris, leaves, and organic buildup near the foundation

## Interior Checklist

- Look for ant trails, especially in kitchens and bathrooms
- Inspect the basement and crawl spaces for moisture or musty odors
- Check the attic for signs of overwintering wildlife or rodents
- Repair leaking faucets and pipes

## Common Spring Pests

- Ants
- Carpenter ants
- Boxelder bugs
- Mice
- Squirrels and raccoons are seeking nesting sites



## SUMMER: Peak Insect and Nesting Activity

Summer brings high insect pressure and increased wildlife movement. Prevention focuses on exclusion and sanitation.



## Exterior Checklist

- Inspect siding, soffits, and fascia for gaps or damage
- Check chimney caps and roofline openings
- Remove standing water from birdbaths, gutters, and yard items
- Keep trash bins sealed and away from entry points
- Maintain lawn and keep vegetation trimmed

## Interior Checklist

- Store food in sealed containers
- Clean crumbs and spills promptly
- Inspect window wells and basement windows
- Watch for wasp or hornet activity around eaves and decks

## Common Summer Pests

- Wasps
- Spiders
- Flies
- Mosquitoes
- Mice near the foundation
- Voles in the lawn



## FALL: Rodent and Wildlife Invasion Season

As temperatures drop, pests look for warmth and shelter. Fall is the most critical time for sealing and exclusion work.



## Exterior Checklist

- Seal all gaps larger than a quarter inch
- Inspect roof vents, attic vents, and gable vents
- Repair damaged soffits and fascia
- Store firewood at least 20 feet from the home
- Clean gutters to prevent moisture buildup
- Remove fallen fruit from trees

## Interior Checklist

- Inspect attic insulation for signs of rodents
- Check garage doors for gaps along the bottom
- Store pet food in sealed containers
- Reduce clutter in storage areas

## Common Fall Pests

- Mice
- Rats
- Chipmunks
- Squirrels
- Stink bugs
- Boxelder bugs
- Asian lady beetles.



## WINTER: Hidden Activity and Monitoring Season

While pest activity slows, rodents and wildlife remain active inside walls, attics, and crawl spaces.



## Exterior Checklist

- Monitor rooflines after snowfalls for new damage
- Watch for animal tracks near the foundation
- Check for ice dams that can cause moisture intrusion

## Interior Checklist

- Listen for scratching or movement in walls and ceilings
- Monitor droppings in utility rooms and storage areas
- Check the attic for heat loss and insulation gaps
- Watch for unusual odors indicating wildlife presence

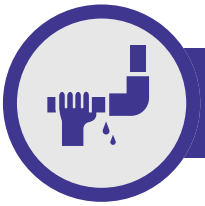
## Common Winter Pests

- Mice
- Rats
- Squirrels
- Raccoons
- Spiders
- Household Ants

# YEAR-ROUND PREVENTION BEST PRACTICES



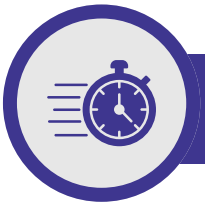
Schedule professional inspections annually



Address moisture issues immediately



Avoid DIY sealing without proper materials or pest knowledge



Act early—small issues become large infestations quickly



Keep documentation of repairs and inspections



## WHEN TO CALL A PROFESSIONAL

Contact a pest and wildlife professional if you notice:

- Repeated pest activity despite DIY efforts
- Scratching, thumping, or movement in walls or the attic
- Droppings, nesting material, or strong odors
- Structural damage caused by animals
- Seasonal re-infestations year after year

Professional inspections identify hidden entry points and provide long-term solutions, not temporary fixes.

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