HIDDEN HOME THREATS

According to a recent national survey, the majority of homeowners are concerned about environmental hazards in their homes. Check out these common hot spots for hidden home threats and simple steps for protecting you and your family.

Poisoning is prevalent.
Injuries in the home, such as poisonings, hurt more than six and a half million people each year. Yet many household cleaners and chemicals are often stored in unlocked or easily accessible places.

Practice safe storage!
- Store all products in their original containers.
- Install child locks on cabinets in homes with young children.

Remove moisture to rid mold!
- Fix water problems as soon as possible.
- When cleaning mold, use detergent and water, and wear a face mask, long sleeves, pants and gloves.

SIMPLE STEPS

A moldy home is an unhealthy home.
Mold grows on moist surfaces and can cause allergic reactions including watery eyes, runny nose and trouble breathing. Mold can also trigger asthma attacks.

SIMPLE STEPS

Carbon Monoxide kills.
This colorless, odorless, tasteless gas sends up to 40,000 to the emergency room and kills 5,000 people in the U.S. each year, beginning with flu-like symptoms.

Test for and seal out radon!
- Purchase a $10 radon test kit from the hardware store.
- Stop smoking, as it intensifies radon’s effects on your health.
- Seal cracks in floors and walls.
- If radon is detected, hire a professional to install a radon mitigation system.

SIMPLE STEPS

Radon is radioactive.
This naturally occurring, odorless, colorless gas is found at high levels in one out of every 15 homes and is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.

SIMPLE STEPS

Rats are relentless.
Rats and mice can squeeze through holes the size of quarters or dimes. Rats (and those they carry) can contaminate food and transmit harmful diseases.

Remove entry points!
- Seal or repair cracks in siding, faulty door/window screens and gaps around pipes entering the home.
- Trim branches, plants and bushes away from your home.
- If you spot a rodent, hire a professional pest control provider who practices Integrated Pest Management® immediately.

SIMPLE STEPS

Mosquitoes are menaces.
They need only a thimble-full of water to breed and survive and can transmit West Nile virus.

Lead poisons children.
This dangerous metal can be found in peeling paint and dust around your home – especially homes built before 1978. Lead can also be found in the soil around your home.

Protect against contaminated paint and dust!
- Hire a professional to inspect homes built before 1978.
- Wash children’s hands and toys frequently.
- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter to remove lead dust.
- Cover bare soil with grass and plants.
- Place a rubber-backed door mat outside and inside your front door to keep contaminants out.

SIMPLE STEPS

Rodents are relentless.
Rats and mice can squeeze through holes the size of quarters or dimes. Rats (and those they carry) can contaminate food and transmit harmful diseases.

Eliminate entry points!
- Seal or repair cracks in siding, faulty door/window screens and gaps around pipes entering the home.
- Trim branches, plants and bushes away from your home.
- If you spot a rodent, hire a professional pest control provider who practices Integrated Pest Management® immediately.

SIMPLE STEPS

For more information, please visit these web sites:
- www.Orkin.com/learningcenter
- www.CDC.gov
- www.CenterforHealthyHousing.org

* Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an approach to pest control that combines all available methods of pest prevention in a given environment and uses pesticides only when necessary to achieve acceptable levels of control with the least possible harm to humans, non-target organisms and the environment.