

# A Creeping In the Cold

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Winter in Florida brings a welcomed break from the harsh heat, the summer rains, and even some pests. But while most pests migrate or hibernate for the winter, some adapt by seeking out warmth – which often leads them to our homes!

Here's a list of pests that may try cozying up this winter, and how you can stop them.



## Silverfish

Silverfish can reproduce quickly and, unlike other insects, can live for years! All the while they'll feed on paper-based products like books and documents, and even food in your pantry.

Silverfish require humidity to survive. By using a dehumidifier to drop the humidity below 40% will dramatically reduce their ability to survive. Setting a few glue-traps will also stop these scaly scoundrels.



## Ants

Ants patrol landscaping which can lead them to tiny cracks in the home. Trailing pipes in search of moisture, they'll often discover the kitchen, where even the tiniest crumbs will fuel their colony within your walls.

End their march by sealing external cracks around pipes and trimming bushes at least 10" away from your home.



## Boxelder Bugs

These true bugs are closely related to bedbugs; but don't worry, their hosts of choice are your plants. They gather in late fall and often seek warm attics or living spaces to wait out the chilly winter.

The best defense is to check and seal roof line gaps. Fortunately, boxelder bugs don't reproduce once inside. Should you notice a cluster of these insects, simply vacuum up the straggling invaders.



## Roaches

While German roaches live inside year-round, Australian and American roaches (often called "Palmetto bugs") prefer the great outdoors. But when temperatures drop, they're quick to camp inside. These large roaches are especially attracted to garages where they hide in cardboard and clutter.

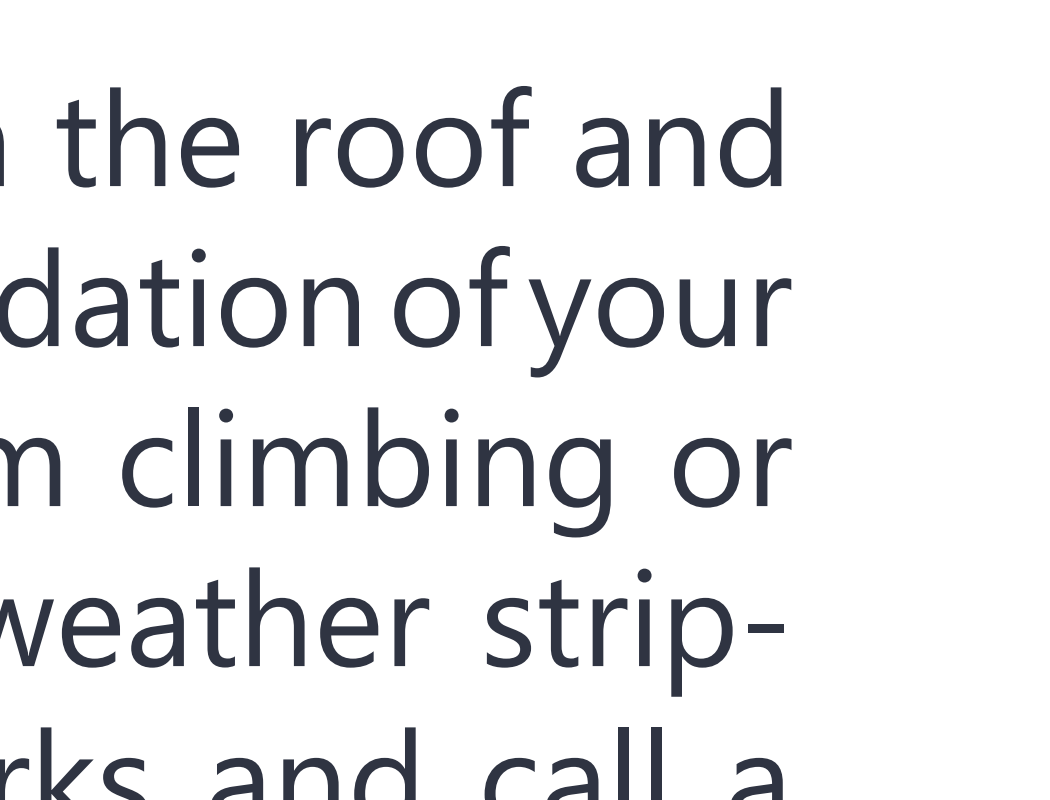
Guard your garage by replacing any old weather stripping, removing clutter, and replacing cardboard with plastic totes.



## Rats & Mice

Rodents are attracted to homes all year-round, but attic warmth makes their attraction increase during the winter. Once inside, their chewing can cause fires, and their droppings contribute to unsanitary conditions and disease.

By trimming trees away from the roof and sealing holes around the foundation of your home, you'll restrict rats from climbing or burrowing. Replace garage weather stripping if you notice gnaw marks and call a professional if you should hear scratching noises in your attic.



## Ladybugs

Ladybugs are beneficial insects, but with the depletion of aphids (their primary food source) during the winter, they'll go into a state of dormancy inside – often clustering in ceiling corners.

Because ladybugs are beneficial insects, we recommend gathering the stowaways in a dustpan and simply releasing them on a warm day. But if you're not ready to accommodate, a vacuum will do the trick.

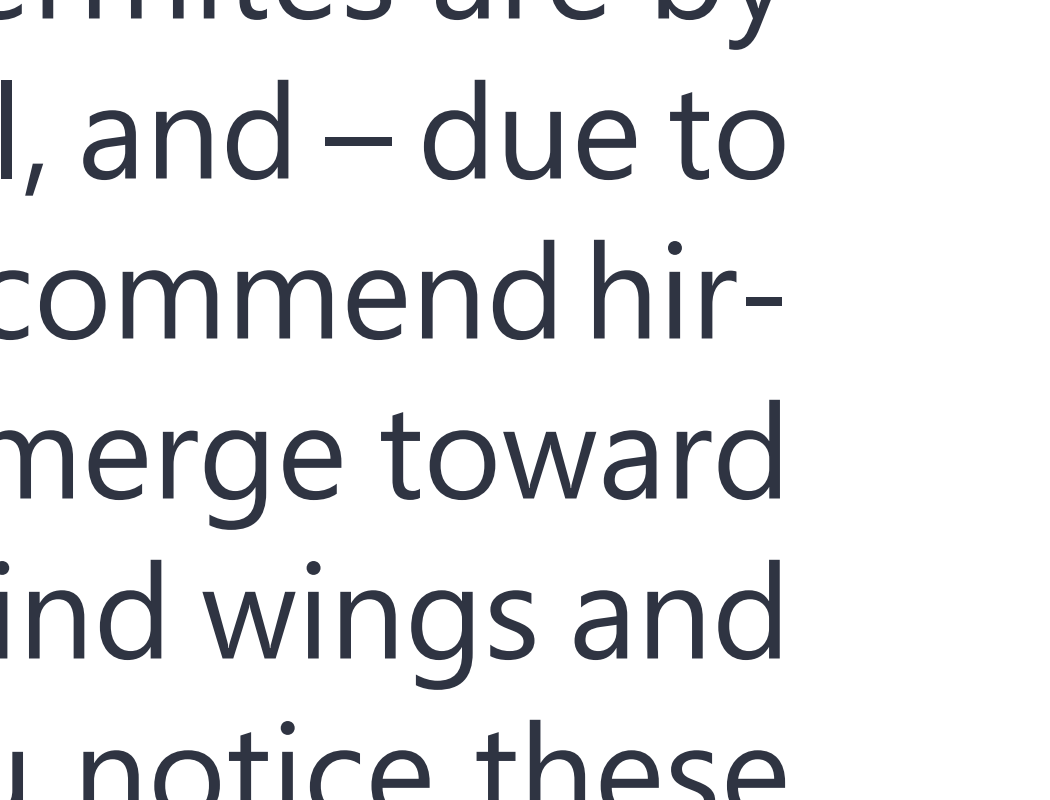


## Termites

Termites will tunnel deeper during winter to regulate their colony temperature, but once they infest your home, their year-round feeding will not stop.

Of all the pests we've listed, termites are by far the most difficult to control, and – due to the risk involved – we highly recommend hiring a professional. Termites emerge toward the end of winter, leaving behind wings and thousands of swarmers. If you notice these inside, call Deans right away to schedule a thorough inspection.

All these pests have one thing in common – they're all preventable. By starting a termite and pest control program before problems arise, you'll stop issues before they incur serious damage. When Deans protects your home, you can also be sure to spend the winter – and all your seasons – pest-free!



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