DEANS SERVICES Buzz
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Keep Pests Away on a RAINY DAY

By Madeline Pagan
Deans Administrator

It may seem ironic, but one thing you can count on in the Sunshine State is a rainy summer! While great for your turf, too much rain can lead to the proliferation of pesky pests that are looking for shelter. Here's what you can do to keep your home pest-free during this stormy season.

Guard the Gutters

Leaves in your gutters can support ant colonies and shelter pests like the American roach. When the rains come, these rooftop residents are sent scurrying to soffits and window seals. By clearing your gutters regularly and trimming trees away from the roof, you'll reduce the odds of an aerial invasion.

Close the Gap

Check for holes on the exterior of the home around vents and soffits, and the garage door seal. Caulk any cracks in your stucco, paying careful attention to areas around pipe chases and hose bibs. Even hairline cracks will allow moisture and the insects that follow.

Cut the Clutter

It's important to make your home inhospitable to reduce the chance of an infestation. Reduce clutter, especially in highly vulnerable areas. "Cardboard boxes are pest magnets – especially for roaches," says Joe Tomasiello, our resident Associate Certified Entomologist. "I always advise against their use in the home."

Using sealable plastic storage bins is an effective way to prevent pests from getting too cozy!

Toughen the Turf

Your home isn't the only place vulnerable to pests during the rainy season. An overly-saturated lawn can develop disease, fungus, and pest problems too. Grubs thrive in areas with excess moisture, and this can further damage root development. Check the weather regularly to avoid overwatering, and, if you're a Deans lawn customer, look for watering recommendations from your technicians.

If you're noticing more pests this rainy season, call Deans right away. When it comes to protecting your home and lawn…

we've got you covered rain or shine!

THE FDA ALLOWS
TWENTY NINE INSECT PARTS
PER 10 GRAMS OF
PEANUTBUTTER

(Not So) Fun Fact
#219

DEANS

Customer Questions

"Why Does My Lawn Still Have Brown Spots After It's Rained?"

Joe Tomasiello, ACE
Associate Certified Entomologist

Because brown spots are often associated with drought symptoms, noticing them in Florida's wettest season may seem strange. But there are many potential causes of brown patches. If you don't have a lawn fertilization program, pests like grubs or chinch bugs could be at play; but if you do, the most likely cause is Delayed Drought Recovery.

Although it's been several weeks since we experienced significant dry spells, such drought coupled with extreme heat can cause significant root damage. In fact, if the irrigation system wasn't calibrated to provide enough water during this period, the turf root system could be severely damaged in as little as three or four days! The good news is that root damage requires only water and time to recover.

Drought recovery is simple; it just requires adequate water...and a little patience.

How much time is needed depends on the degree of damage. Minor damage takes weeks, while severe damage can take months! This is why watering is so important.

In fact, as important as fertilization and pest control is, there is no single more important factor in the health of your lawn than proper irrigation. It's a popular misconception that during periods of drought, we can "catch up" on watering later. But, like our own need for hydration, once too much time has passed, serious health consequences are incurred.

With more rain in our forecast, any brown spots caused by Delayed Drought Recovery will fill in nicely. Just be sure to apply ¾ inches of wa-ter at least three times per week and, if you haven't already, talk to your Deans tech about adding a fertilization to help in the recovery!

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