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The many methods of pest control by Mark Peterberg

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Pest Control refers to the regulation or management of animals that present a danger or nuisance to homes or communities. Pest control services use a variety of methods to eliminate the nuisance and danger of unwanted pests.

Poison bait is one of the commonest methods of pest control. It is typically used by a rat exterminator for controlling rat populations; however, it is not as effective when there are other food sources around, such as garbage. Traps are another form of rodent control. There are many kinds of traps available on the market today that can easily remove mice and rats from homes. The snap trap is the most widely used; it utilizes a trigger to hold bait, and kills the rodent by striking it behind the head with a wire rod or jaw. In some instances, glue traps may also be used. This type of trap requires the mouse or rat to attempt to cross the trap so the glue can hold the rodent. After a catch is made the rodent can be killed and disposed of. Live catch traps are another commonly used rat trap; this type of trap enables one to catch more than one rodent at a time, so they can be released from the trap in a new location if desired.

But rats are not the only kind of pest that can be dealt with by using pest control services. The method of biological pest control can be used to control and manage natural predators and parasites. For example: mosquitoes are often controlled by putting a bacterium that infects and kills mosquito larvae in local water sources. The treatment has no known negative consequences on the remaining ecology and is safe for humans to drink. The point of biological pest control, or any natural pest control, is to eliminate a pest with minimal harm to the ecological balance of the environment in its present form.

Spraying poisons by planes, hand held units, or trucks that carry the spraying equipment, is a common method of pest control. Throughout the United States, towns often drive a town owned truck around once or twice a week to each street, spraying for mosquitoes. Crop dusters commonly fly over farmland and spray poison to kill off pest that would threaten the crops. Many find spraying poison around their yard, homes, or businesses, far more desirable than allowing insects to thrive there.

Space treatment is a long term pest control project involving fogging or misting type applicators. Liquid insecticide is dispersed in the atmosphere within a structure. Treatments do not require the evacuation or airtight sealing of a building, allowing most work within the building to continue but at the cost of the penetrating effects. Contact insecticides are generally used, minimizing the long lasting residual effects.

Fumigation is also used for pest control. Fumigation is a project that involves a structure be covered or sealed airtight followed by the introduction of a penetrating, deadly gas at a killing concentration a long period of time (24-72hrs). Although expensive, space fumigation targets all life stages of pests.

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