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**Deadly Pests and Diseases**

**in Massachusetts**

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# **Getting to Grips With the Different Types of Ticks**

Lyme and other tick-borne diseases are a constant concern, so it is critical to learn about common ticks in Massachusetts. When you know which ticks are prevalent in the area and their life cycles, you know how to manage this pest. Then, you can call us so that you know when to spray for ticks in Massachusetts to protect you and your property from these disease-carrying pests.

## **What Are Ticks?**

Ticks are a part of the arthropod classification that belongs to the Arachnida class of creatures. They are also classified under the parasitiformes suborder and Ixodida order of insects.

There are three types of ticks, each with many species. The three tick families are the Ixodida (hard ticks), Argasidae (soft ticks), and Nuttalliella. Nuttalliella's various physical characteristics distinguish it from the other two, and it is also only found in Africa.

Essentially, ticks are external parasites that feed on the blood of living animals. These parasites also have a unique characteristic in that they must shed their exoskeleton periodically to keep growing.

Massachusetts has high levels of tick populations, with some counties experiencing lower levels and others being high-risk regions. Because ticks pose such a threat to your health, it is important to understand more about their life cycle and the diseases they carry to protect yourself.

## **The Tick Life Cycle**

Ticks tend to inhabit grassy areas and woodlands. They're most active in the warm months, but this activity varies between species. Notably, many tick species carry diseases that threaten the health of people and animals.

Another significant fact about these common pests is that they go through several life cycles: the egg, larva, nymph, and adult. They also have different host and feeding preferences during each stage, depending on the species.

Life cycle information is critical in helping you to identify the extent of the threat you face. Understanding these phases is also vital for pest control to know when to spray for ticks in Massachusetts.

### **Egg Stage**

Ticks typically live for about two to three years and lay thousands of eggs. Female ticks lay their eggs in spring. Because they can’t lay their eggs on live hosts, they lay them in leaf litter and other warm, protective vegetation.

### **Larva Stage**

The larva has six legs and hatches after two weeks to two months, usually in the summer. When they do, they must have a blood meal to survive. At this time, the larva can become infected by feeding on a diseased host.

Tick larvae feed on small hosts such as squirrels, raccoons, and white-footed mice. The white-footed mouse is a reservoir for Borrelia burgdorferi, the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Ticks pick up other diseases from their hosts. When they do, they carry the bacteria until they die and transmit these between hosts. Because of this, they are known as nature's dirty needles.

One exception is the adult tick which can carry Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever (TBRF) and transfer this disease to its eggs. The offspring can spread this disease to its animal and human hosts.

### **Nymph Stage**

After the first blood meal, the larva falls off its host and molts to become a nymph. Nymphs transform into this new stage in the fall and springtime. They are more active when the weather is warmer (37 degrees Fahrenheit or more). They have eight legs and feed for up to five days on blood meals before moving into the adult phase.

While in the nymph stage, they can pick up and spread diseases and acquire new ones. The nymph can undergo up to five growth phases depending on the tick species. Different tick species also have one to three different types of hosts.

### **Adult Stage**

Depending on the tick species, the most common times for ticks in Massachusetts are from March to August and October through to November, when they typically transform into adults in the fall.

Depending on their type, they will move to a third host during this period. If they can’t find a host in winter, they will lie dormant until the warmer months. Once it has had its last meal, the tick will die or mate. After mating, the male tick dies, and the female tick dies after laying eggs.

## **Common Ticks in Massachusetts**

Now that section is out of the way, let's look at the many different types of ticks in Massachusetts.

* **Rabbit tick:** Harmless to people and domestic pets.
* **Winter tick:** Harmless to people and domestic pets.
* **Brown dog tick:** These ticks are harmful to people.
* **Lone Star tick diseases:** These ticks carry diseases that are a threat to human and animal health.
* **Deer ticks are also known as the Eastern black legged tick:** Lyme and Powassan diseases.
* **The American dog tick:** Lyme disease.
* **Groundhog tick:** Powassan disease.
* **Asian long-horned tick:** Carries harmful disease-causing bacteria for people and animals.

You can learn more about illnesses carried by ticks in Massachusetts (Link to, How To Protect Yourself from Tick Diseases in Massachusetts).

Because Lyme and Powassan diseases are more prevalent in the area, it’s essential for our customers to recognize the last four ticks on the list.

Most people ask [what % of ticks in Massachusetts have Lyme](https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2022-08-16/even-in-bulls-eye-new-england-region-for-lyme-disease-often-flies-under-radar). One answer places this figure as high as 40 to 50 percent. Your most significant concern should be Massachusetts deer ticks, the biggest culprits in Lyme and Powassan diseases.

It's important to understand that the black legged tick (deer tick) must be on a person for up to 24 hours to transmit any diseases. Other ticks only need to be on you for four hours to transmit bacteria.

## **Where Can I Find a Person to Spray Yard for Ticks in Massachusetts?**

You're in luck. Safer Nature works in Massachusetts, and we’ve been helping our customers with tick and pest control for decades.

We offer [safe organic tick and mosquito pest control](https://safernature.com/tick-control/) treatments for you and your pets. Our organic solutions include ongoing protection by building barriers to further invasions, so they are also comprehensive and long-lasting.

Our traditional pest control solutions are equally effective in zapping and maintaining control of ticks and other pest populations.

[Contact us](https://safernature.com/contact-us/) now for a free pest control quote that works best for your situation. Whether you prefer the organic or traditional method, you’re choosing to keep your family safe from disease-carrying ticks. Both options are effective. Both methods provide you with peace of mind, which is priceless.

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# **Common Tick Diseases and Pest Control in Massachusetts**

Of all the tick diseases in Massachusetts, Lyme, and Powassan are the most serious. However, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is also extremely dangerous. Fortunately, it is not prevalent in Massachusetts. Still, this brief list of common tick diseases (there are others) can wreck your life in moments.

Be conscious of your surroundings at all times and safeguard your property with Safer Nature pest control. This decision could be one of the most important ones you make in this lifetime.

### **1. Anaplasmosis**

**Cause**: Anaplasma phagocytophilum.

**Common sources:** Infected black-legged tick (deer tick) and the western black-legged tick (Ixodes pacificus).

**Symptoms of tick diseases**: Anaplasmosis bacteria symptoms may include a rash, fever, muscle pains, cold and hot chills, headaches, and fatigue.

**Severe cases**: These bacteria can catalyze multiple organ failures, including the respiratory and renal systems.

**Affects:** People and domestic animals like dogs and livestock.

**Typical treatment:** Antibiotics like doxycycline.

**Vaccine:** No vaccine is available for Anaplasmosis at the time of writing this article.

### **2. Babesiosis Microti**

**Cause**: Microscopic Babesia microti parasites and others.

**Common source:** Infected black-legged ticks.

**Symptoms of tick diseases**: This is one of the black-legged tick diseases affecting red blood cells. It mimics flu and Lyme disease, so the symptoms include fever, chills, muscle aches and pains, and headaches.

**Severe cases**: Severe infections can warrant hospitalization. The patient may also need a blood transfusion.

**Affects:** [People and other vertebrates](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4458703/). Canine babesiosis is also a brown dog tick disease.

**Typical treatment:** A few weeks of antiparasitic medications like atovaquone and azithromycin may be necessary. These infections can be life-threatening for people with weak immune systems, the elderly, and those without a spleen.

**Vaccine:** No vaccine is available for Babesiosis microti and other Babesia species.

### **3. Borrelia Miyamotoi**

**Cause**: Borrelia miyamotoi – similar to tick-borne relapsing fever (TBRF) and Lyme-causing spirochete, Borrelia burgdorferi.

**Common sources:** Infected black-legged and western black-legged ticks.

**Symptoms of tick diseases**: The symptoms are similar to Lyme disease and include a rash, fever, headaches, and neck pain. After a few weeks, the victim may experience arthritic-type symptoms. This infection also causes nausea, vomiting, rashes, and high levels of blood bacteria.

**Severe cases**: Serious or undiagnosed cases can include neurological damage that impacts gait movements and cognitive decline. Severe cases also include coinfections, as with many other tick-borne diseases.

**Affects:** [People and pets](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8321249/).

**Typical treatment:** [Borrelia miyamotoi](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1198743X15002943) antibiotics and medications include doxycycline, ceftriaxone for meningoencephalitis, and penicillin G in complex cases.

**Vaccine:** None. VLA15 is designed for protection against Borrelia, which causes Lyme.

### **4. Ehrlichiosis**

**Cause**: Ehrlichia genus bacteria. Tick diseases ehrlichiosis in the U.S. includes Ehrlichia chaffeensis, E. ewingii, or E. muris eauclairensis.

**Common source:** Infected Lone Star tick.

**Symptoms of tick diseases**: Ehrlichiosis is one of the Lone Star tick diseases that produce symptoms like muscle aches and pains, headaches, fevers, exhaustion, and possibly a rash. These symptoms depend on the Ehrlichia bacteria involved.

**Severe cases**: Ehrlichiosis is capable of causing serious health problems and even death if not diagnosed in time.

**Affects:** People and animals. Brown dog tick diseases in dogs include canine ehrlichiosis.

**Typical treatment:** Quick response antibiotic treatment can lead to a full recovery.

**Vaccine:** None.

### **5. Lyme Disease (Link to the article: What Is Lyme Disease and How Can You Stay Safe)**

**Cause**: Borrelia burgdorferi bacteria.

**Common source:** Infected black-legged ticks (deer ticks).

**Symptoms of tick diseases**: Can include erythema migrans body rash or bull’s eye rash, fever, exhaustion, and headaches.

**Severe cases**: If undiagnosed or untreated, this infection can lead to severe heart, nervous system, and joint complications.

**Affects:** People and animals can develop symptoms.

**Typical treatment:** Antibiotic treatment soon after the infection can lead to a full recovery.

**Vaccine:** None.

### **6. Powassan Virus (POWV) - Deer Tick Virus**

**Cause**: Flavivirus family. Other viruses in this family include the dreaded [Dengue fever](https://a-z-animals.com/blog/zoonotic-diseases-animal-borne-diseases-you-should-know-about/), West Nile, and Zika viruses.

**Common source:** Infected black-legged ticks (deer ticks).

**Symptoms of tick diseases**: Children and adults with weaker immune systems are most at risk from this virus. The symptoms of the Powassan virus may include weakness, headaches, fever, vomiting, coordination issues, and seizures. This virus attacks the brain and causes a form of encephalitis.

**Severe cases**: Serious neurological injury can occur. The virus can also cause long-lasting or permanent brain damage and death.

**Affects:** Fortunately, this is not among the most common tick diseases in Massachusetts, although it is among the deadliest. It affects people but has not been found to cause illness in cats, dogs, or horses.

**Typical treatment:** No particular treatment is available, so prevention in the form of Safer Nature pest control, protective clothing, repellants, vigilance, and avoidance of woodlands and grasslands in active tick seasons is advisable.

**Vaccine:** None.

### **7. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF)**

**Cause**: Rickettsia rickettsii bacteria family (includes spotted fever rickettsiosis, rickettsialpox Rickettsia parkeri rickettsiosis, and Pacific Coast tick fever).

**Common sources:** Infected brown dog ticks, American dog ticks, and Rocky Mountain wood ticks.

**Symptoms of tick diseases**: Fever, headaches, muscle aches, and stomach pain are common. A full-body rash starts at the wrists and ankles and spreads to the rest of the body.

**Severe cases**: Organ failure and death can occur in cases of severe infections and if left untreated.

**Affects:** People and dogs. Dogs cannot transfer these bacteria to people. People only contract this disease from infected ticks.

**Typical treatment:** Antibiotics.

**Vaccine:** None.

### **8. Tularemia - Rabbit or Deer Fever**

**Cause**: Francisella tularensis bacteria.

**Common sources:** Infected rabbits, rodents, and ticks can carry this disease and be infected by it. People can contract this disease through bites from ticks and insects like deer flies. They can also pick up these bacteria by handling infected animals, ingesting contaminated water or food, or breathing in contaminated dust.

**Symptoms of tick diseases**: Depending on how the person acquires the infection, they can suffer from skin ulcers, fatigue, swollen lymph glands, fevers, headaches, muscle aches, and chills.

**Severe cases**: Individuals can develop pneumonia, sepsis, or meningitis from these bacteria.

**Affects:** People, rabbits, hares, rodents, wild animals, and domestic pets.

**Typical treatment:** Antibiotics.

**Vaccine:** Available to people in high-risk environments.

## **Safer Nature Pest Control Options For the Most Common Tick Diseases**

## **We suggest you read through our guidelines on protecting yourself from the most common tick diseases in Massachusetts. (Link with: How To Protect Yourself from Tick Diseases in Massachusetts). Once you've finished reading those guidelines, call us at (978) 325-1325. We will walk you through your pest control options.**

These methods include organic pest control and traditional pest control solutions.

One [customer review](https://safernature.com/reviews/) says this about our services, “Great experience with Safer Nature and would definitely recommend! Ryan is extremely responsive and knowledgeable, proactively follows up, and did a great job!”

Our repeat and new customers know they're in good hands with Safer Nature. So, phone us or [contact us online now](https://safernature.com/contact-us/) to arrange a quote. We will be in touch quickly to help resolve your pest problem – whether it involves ticks, fleas, or other pesky critters.

#  **What Is Lyme Disease and How Can You Stay Safe?**

Lyme disease can destroy your health and often does. Besides human health, pets can also pick up Lyme disease. One common sign is the bull's eye rash on humans or the Lyme disease bright red circle on a dog's belly. It worsens when symptoms go undiscovered, and untreated Lyme disease develops into chronic Lyme disease.

We want to inform our customers of the dangers of this tick-borne disease. More importantly, we want you to know that Safer Nature provides safe, traditional or organic pest control methods to manage tick populations.

## **What Is Lyme Disease?**

Anyone diagnosed with a Lyme disease tick bite knows that the Borrelia burgdorferi bacteria causes the nasty symptoms of this disease. When a deer tick (also known as the black-legged tick) is infected, it spreads this infection when latching on to people, deer, and other animals.

### **High-risk Months**

Some statistics from the Massachusetts Department of Health (DOH) show that these ticks are most active from March and April to August and again from October to November. These timeframes depend on the weather.

### **Lyme Disease Statistics**

Although the rates of Lyme disease infections differ between the Massachusetts counties, deer ticks, and their diseases occur throughout the state. Essex had 115 reported cases of [Lyme disease](https://www.mass.gov/lists/monthly-tick-borne-disease-reports) and other tick-borne diseases in 2022, so 3.1 in every 10,000 people were affected. Dukes and Nantucket had the highest cases at 24,550, 91.65 incidents for every 10,000 people.

The trend of medical visits shows that children between 5 and 14 and older adults are the most at risk. Doctors often diagnosed these children with Lyme disease. In contrast, they diagnosed mature adults with Lyme disease, babesiosis, and anaplasmosis.

This information shows that there is a clear need to protect yourself. That protection starts with pest control in and around your home. But first, you need to recognize the symptoms of Lyme disease.

## **What Are the Lyme Disease Symptoms?**

Lyme disease symptoms in humans have a terrible reputation for being difficult to diagnose. The reason is that the symptoms are so much like the flu. You may notice the infamous Lyme disease bullseye rash, but not everyone gets this Lyme disease rash. The absence of visible signs on your body makes it even more challenging to get to the bottom of the symptoms.

### **Initial Signs of Lyme Disease Following a Tick Bite**

Can Lyme disease be cured? The chances are much better with an early diagnosis.

Some early symptoms are:

* Increased temperature and fever
* Ongoing, unexplained headaches
* Exhaustion for no reason
* Pains in your joints and muscles
* Swollen lymph glands and nodes
* The bullseye rash is a nasty reddish-pink circle with an obvious central point. The entire circle may be red, or you may notice the red dot in the middle, surrounded by a white circle (normal-looking skin) and a red circle around that.

### **Chronic Lyme Disease Symptoms**

If you or your doctor miss these early warning signs, more severe symptoms may arise, requiring a test for Lyme disease years later. Here is a list of possible signs later on:

* Stiff neck and increasingly painful headaches that last longer than normal
* Lyme disease face - facial paralysis or drooping
* Lyme disease eyes - inflammation and changes in your vision
* Swelling and pain that seems to migrate between your joints
* Problems with your nervous system that show up as muscle weakness in your legs or arms and tingling or numbness in your toes and feet or fingers and hands
* Irregular heart rhythms or palpitations

You may not experience any of these symptoms. But if you suspect a tick has bitten you, a Lyme disease test may save you from worsening co-infections.

## **Co-Infections**

Untreated Lyme disease often leads to further complications. Some common co-infections of Lyme disease are:

* **Anaplasmosis/Ehrlichiosis** – attacks white blood cells and often produces flu-like symptoms but can cause respiratory or organ failure and meningitis. **(Link Ehrlichiosis to this article: Common Tick Diseases in Massachusetts and Pest Control Prevention Techniques)**
* **Babesiosis** - a parasite that invades red blood cells. The symptoms are often flu-like but are more intense, like malaria. Patients can also suffer from hemolytic disease, kidney failure, and anemia.
* **Bartonellosis** – as severe as the Bartonella henselae bacteria, this one causes infections like trench fever and cat scratch disease. Again, the symptoms mimic the flu, but people also experience swollen lymph nodes. Chronic diseases like vasculitis can also develop and impact the heart, brain, and eyes. Central nervous system diseases may also develop because of this bacterium.
* **Mycoplasma** – these bacteria typically affect the urinary tract, respiratory function, and central nervous system. They may cause seizures and are well known to be a part of chronic Lyme disease symptoms and others that won't go away.
* **Rickettsia** – this family of bacteria is responsible for many types of infections like typhus, spotted fever, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. They are dangerous and can cause kidney and respiratory failure, damage the central nervous system, or cause death.

All of these potential co-infections are serious. Luckily, there is a treatment for Lyme disease, which is typically more effective if you catch it quickly.

## **Lyme Disease Treatment**

Anyone who has struggled to find a diagnosis for their symptoms often asks if Lyme disease is curable when they see a Lyme literate doctor.

Unfortunately, this question is impossible to answer, but most doctors start their patients on Lyme disease antibiotics. If the antibiotics don't produce good results, the doctor may decide that the patient has chronic Lyme disease. This chronic condition is also known as post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome (PTLDS).

This diagnosis may lead to extended periods of antibiotic treatment and complementary treatments. The individual may then seriously consider a lifestyle change in their diet and even research alternative therapies.

## **Chronic Lyme Disease**

Some doctors say chronic Lyme disease develops because the initial bacteria trigger neurological Lyme disease. Others say that chronic symptoms are due to the ongoing effects of the bacteria. Whatever the case, these views do not help people suffering from these infections.

The point is that the road to recovery after developing chronic Lyme disease 20 years later – or sooner - is a long and arduous journey.

## **How Safer Nature Helps You Control Ticks and the Spread of Lyme**

Strong pest control products can cause further harm to people living with Lyme disease, so we recommend our natural [organic pest control](https://safernature.com/organic-pest-control/) products. We believe in using nature to fight nature to protect you, your family, and your pets from the harmful effects of disease-carrying pests.

If everyone in your family is healthy, we suggest using traditional pest control methods to manage tick problems. Both our natural and traditional pest control methods are effective and reliable.

So, put our number on speed dial (978) 325-1325 and help safeguard your loved ones from the destructive effects of Lyme disease. Or complete our online form for a [quote](https://safernature.com/contact-us/). We’re open every day of the week.

# **Powassan Virus, Vectors, and Pest Control Protection**

Although the Powassan virus has been around for a while, reports of human infection cases remain low. Despite the low rate of illnesses, this virus is deadly. Because it is such a massive threat, protecting yourself and your property from infected vectors is vital.

One way to safeguard yourself is to become knowledgeable about the Powassan virus. Knowledge is empowerment, enabling you to take essential steps to avoid contracting this virus.

Learn as much as you can right here about the Powassan virus and how to use Safer Nature pest control as one protection barrier. Then learn of other best options to shield yourself from this virus.

## **What Is the Powassan Virus?**

The Powassan virus was identified in a young boy who died of encephalitis in 1958 in Powassan, Canada. However, scientists backdated its origins to ticks infected with this virus in northern Colorado in 1952.

Although the Powassan virus is rare, it is deadly, with infected ticks needing only 15 minutes to pass this disease to their hosts. Infected black-legged ticks (deer ticks) and groundhog ticks can carry this virus.

These ticks inhabit dense brush, grasslands, and wooded regions. They are prevalent in the Great Lakes and the northeast regions of the U.S. High-risk periods for being bitten are in spring and summer when these ticks are the most active.

Some people think that the Powassan virus is similar to Lyme. It is not. A bacterium causes Lyme disease, and a virus causes the Powassan illness.

## **What Are the Powassan Virus Symptoms?**

Some people mistakenly think mosquitoes spread the Powassan virus because it belongs to the same family as the West Nile virus. This assumption is incorrect, as only ticks are known to spread the Powassan virus. Nevertheless, ticks and mosquitoes are vectors of other diseases that generate debilitating symptoms.

Symptoms of the Powassan virus tend to become evident within two to four weeks after an infected tick bite and include:

* Fever
* Crippling headaches
* Vomiting
* Seizures
* Confusion
* Difficulty with speaking
* Memory loss
* Weakness
* Coordination loss

Severe symptoms of the Powassan virus may include the above and additional reactions such as:

* High fever
* Tremors
* Paralysis
* Coma

Serious cases of the Powassan virus are known to cause encephalitis and meningitis. Encephalitis causes brain inflammation, while meningitis causes inflammation of the spinal and brain membranes.

One out of ten people dies from the Powassan virus. Survivors often continue to experience adverse neurological symptoms like headaches, muscle weakness, confusion, and memory loss.

## **Who Is at Risk of Getting the Powassan Virus?**

Anyone who enjoys spending time outdoors gardening, hiking, fishing, or hunting is at risk of being bitten by an infected tick or ticks. People who work outdoors also have a bigger chance of being infected by tick bites than those who work indoors.

Additionally, children and older adults typically have weaker immune systems. This condition means they are more susceptible to the Powassan virus than those with more robust immune systems.

## **How Does It Spread?**

Animals like squirrels, deer, and groundhogs can carry the Powassan virus. Ticks can become infected when feeding on these hosts and transfer the disease to people.

Some ticks that carry this virus are the black-legged tick which feeds on deer. This virus is known as lineage 2, as this tick also feeds on people. Other ticks only feed on groundhogs and squirrels; this part of the Powassan virus is known as lineage 1. People seldom have contact with these animals or the ticks that feed on them.

Although extremely rare, it is possible to contract this [flavivirus](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4862983/) through contaminated raw milk from cows or goats. But tick bites are still the main source of transmitting the Powassan virus in people. Still, once a tick infects a person with this virus, the person can’t transmit it to someone else, except through a [blood transfusion](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32539111/), which is also extremely rare.

## **Diagnosis and Treatment**

A medical doctor will ask for a patient’s history and whether they know or think they have had a tick bite. The doctor will often also do a physical exam and a laboratory test.

Some lab tests look for the presence of an existing Powassan virus. Others test for a new infection. Many of these lab tests rely on biological responses to determine the presence of a disease.

1. **Serological testing:** This laboratory test picks up antibodies due to the human body producing them to fight the Powassan virus. Although this serological test is standard, it can only provide evidence of whether the patient has already had the Powassan virus infection rather than a new one.

2. **Rapid immunochromatographic diagnostic tests:** These tests identify the development of Powassan virus antigens in real-time.

3. **Nucleic acid detection tests:** One of these tests is the RT-PCR (Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction). Although not widely used in laboratories, a medical expert may recommend this or a similar test in a specialized laboratory. This diagnostic method recognizes viral RNA loads in cerebrospinal fluid, blood, and other bodily fluids. Experts use these types of tests to diagnose current Powassan virus infections.

At present, there are no known treatments for this virus. Medical doctors rely on supportive therapies to manage the patient's symptoms. If brain or spinal inflammation occurs or the virus impacts the respiratory system, hospitalization is often necessary. Other interventions may include corticosteroids, intravenous fluids, and drugs like Ribavirin. Still, these depend on individual cases and the medical team.

## **Powassan Virus Prevention**

Avoiding contact with infected ticks is the best way to limit your chances of contracting the Powassan virus. You can follow these safety [JM1] tips when outdoors and add another barrier by treating your pets with tick and flea products.

## **Treating for the Powassan Virus for Decades**

Safer Nature Pest Control has been delivering pest control services to limit exposure to the Powassan virus for decades. Your best option is to follow the safety tips suggested to reduce exposure. But the ideal strategy is to get expert help to bolster your barriers against contracting this deadly virus.

We are available seven days a week, so call us at (978) 325-1325 for a quote. We offer organic and traditional tick control [JM2] methods. We also provide a [combo tick and mosquito](https://safernature.com/organic-tick-mosquito-control/) population control strategy. So, contact us now to protect yourself and your loved ones against this deadly virus.

 [JM1]**LINK: How To Protect Yourself from Tick Diseases in Massachusetts**

 [JM2]LINK to this page when available.

# **How To Protect Yourself from Tick Diseases in Massachusetts**

Tick diseases have proven to be a nasty threat in the past few years. Because of this, Safer Nature has developed some basic guidelines to help our customers maintain safer living environments in the world of common and not-so-common pests.

Safer Nature also uses traditional and organic pest control in Massachusetts. We like to provide you with a choice of how you want to protect yourself and your environment. Both methods of pest control are popular and effective. But you can enhance your protection by following these steps to avoid tick diseases in humans and dog tick diseases.

## **Tick Proof Your Home**

There are so many tick diseases and vectors that it has become essential to tick-proof your home.

### **Tick disease risks and sources**

Anyone living in Massachusetts runs the risk of picking up any of the following Ixodes tick diseases or deadly infections from other types of ticks:

* [**Rabbit tick**](https://extension.umaine.edu/ticks/maine-ticks/rabbit-tick/) – spreads Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) and tularemia in animals.
* **Winter tick** – or moose tick – this tick does not seem to carry disease but is parasitic on moose and other ungulates.
* **Brown dog tick diseases** include canine ehrlichiosis and canine babesiosis. These ticks also carry RMSF or Rickettsia rickettsii in dogs and people.
* **Lone Star tick diseases** – includes southern tick-associated rash illness or STARI, tularemia, and Bourbon or Heartland virus disease. Others are ehrlichiosis and sometimes a tick disease red meat allergy (alpha-gal syndrome), which can be fatal.
* **Eastern black legged tick diseases** (deer tick diseases) - includes Powassan and Lyme disease. (Link Lyme disease to this article: What Is Lyme Disease and How Can You Stay Safe?)
* **The American dog tick diseases in dogs and people** - Lyme disease, Canine Bartonellosis, Canine Ehrlichiosis, Canine Babesiosis, Canine Anaplasmosis, Canine Hepatozoonosis, and RMSF.
* **Groundhog tick or Ixodes cookei** - can cause Powassan disease.
* [**Asian long-horned tick**](https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/longhorned-tick/index.html) – spreads Rickettsia rickettsii or spotted fever rickettsiosis.

These ticks often infect people and animals, but some ticks only feed on wildlife, like the rabbit tick. This tick can carry Lyme disease but rarely transmits the disease to people.

### **Steps to tick-proofing your home**

Because the risk of catching tick diseases is so high for pets and people, we suggest you tick-proof your home using the following methods:

1. Ticks like long grass and hiding places, so keep your lawn short and your garden free of mess, like leaves, and trim the brush.
2. Use gravel or wood chips to build a barrier around your property because this makes it difficult for ticks to move into your space.
3. Buy tick-bait boxes and tubes to place around your property for extra protection.
4. Use deer-proof fencing around your property to protect your garden. Using additional deer-proof fencing around play areas is also a good idea.
5. Speak to us about a quote for pest control and management because we service a major part of Massachusetts.

## **Steps to Keep Your Family and Pets Safe From Tick Bites**

We suggest that our customers follow these basic guidelines to protect themselves and their pets from common tick diseases:

1. Keep tick-control products and medication in the house.

2. Prevent your pets from roaming around tick-dense bushes.

3. Wear protective clothing such as tops with long sleeves, long pants, and socks. In other words, cover as much skin as possible when walking in the bush.

4. Ticks love long grasses and woodlands. Avoid these areas, especially in the tick season (March/April to August and October to November).

5. Spray insect repellant on your skin and clothing before venturing into the brush. Repellants containing picaridin, [DEET](https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/deet), or lemon eucalyptus are the most effective on your skin. [Permethrin](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK553150/) is suitable to use on clothing and outdoor gear. (Despite authorities listing DEET as safe, it is advisable to [exercise caution](https://www.lmtribune.com/new-york-first-to-ban-repellents-that-use-deet/article_6187e375-82a1-5319-99ca-f849028ddcd4.html#:~:text=The%20state%20first%20tried%20to,and%20neurological%20problems%20including%20seizures.) when buying products containing this ingredient. It is also best to check the percentage content of DEET when buying repellants).

6. Buy a suitable repellant for your pets and use this to protect them before walking your dogs. Make sure that you’re using repellants that are safe for dogs and cats.

7. Always check your body and your pets for ticks after being outdoors. Run your hands through your hair and feel around soft body spots for ticks on yourself and your dogs. Take a hot shower where you can check yourself thoroughly.

8. Always remove, wash, and dry your clothes at a hot temperature immediately upon returning home after spending time outdoors.

9. Understand the symptoms of tick diseases in people and dogs. When you know what to look for, you can react quickly and get help for yourself or your pets.

## **How to Remove Ticks Safely**

Avoid worsening the risk of tick diseases by following myths about safely removing ticks. There is only one way to remove ticks safely, and here it is:

Wear gloves and always use tweezers to remove the tick. Grab it gently as close to the skin as possible (yours or your pet's). Draw the tweezers away from the skin in a controlled motion to avoid leaving the tick's mouth parts stuck in the skin. Wash your hands with soap and water and disinfect the area with rubbing alcohol.

Keep a close eye out for flu-like symptoms in the weeks to come. If you see a bull's eye rash, make an immediate appointment to see your doctor. If your dog develops symptoms, quickly take them to the vet for an examination and test if necessary.

Symptoms of tick diseases in dogs include lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, difficulty breathing, coughing, and changes in their bark. Other signs of infection are diarrhea and losing control over their back legs.

## **What Should You Do With Ticks After Removal?**

Your best bet is to place the tick in a glass bottle with fresh grass for survival if you want to test it. If you keep it for a few weeks, you can send it to a laboratory for testing should you or your pet develop symptoms.

Your medical doctor or vet can provide details of where to test the tick if you feel it is necessary. Note the date you removed the tick and the area on your body or your pet's body from which it was extracted.

Once you're satisfied that you have enough evidence for analysis and treatment, submerge it in rubbing alcohol until it is dead and flush it down the toilet.

NEVER squash the tick, as this increases the chances of spreading the disease. Also, avoid touching the tick with your hands, as this is also a high-risk action.

## **Protect Your Space With Safer Nature**

Ticks increase their activity and reproduction at certain times of the year. Understanding these times and protecting your property, yourself, and pets can reduce the chances of picking up tick diseases.

You can control your life by taking basic precautions and tick-proofing your property with Safer Nature pest control. Our [organic tick control](https://safernature.com/organic-tick-mosquito-control/) solutions are eco-friendly and effective. Our traditional pest control methods are rapid and effective. In our experience, our customers favor both techniques.

When you choose Safer Nature, you are taking a positive step towards enjoying a lifestyle in Massachusetts primarily free of deer tick diseases.

[Contact us](https://safernature.com/contact-us/) today for peace of mind in dealing with these dangerous pests.

# **Managing Mosquitoes and Diseases in Massachusetts**

Mosquitoes seem to be only incredibly annoying insects. Their constant whining at night makes you feel like offering yourself up as a blood sacrifice just so the noise will stop. Or you could be sitting outdoors enjoying a cocktail in the breeze at dusk, winding down after a tough day at work. Then, you start noticing these pesky insects hovering, calculating the softest juiciest landing spot – on you!

But mosquitoes in Massachusetts are every bit as annoying elsewhere. They deprive you of sleep, irritate you when trying to relax, and their bites are incredibly itchy. Beyond these frustrations, they carry diseases. And it's this last point that makes them dangerous. So let's take a closer look at what you're dealing with.

**Types of Mosquitoes in Massachusetts**

There are 52 types of mosquitoes in Massachusetts. Some of these are dangerous, disease-carrying insects. Others are relatively harmless. All of them are active during the spring, summer, and fall at different times of the day. Mostly, these mosquito species are [active at dusk and dawn](https://a-z-animals.com/blog/are-mosquitos-nocturnal-or-diurnal-their-sleep-behavior-explained/). However, many species buzz around at night and in the early morning hours.

## **Disease-Carrying Mosquitoes**

[Mosquitoes](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/08/05/how-mosquitoes-changed-everything) are at the top of the list of the deadliest creatures on earth. They kill more people than any other creature, despite their size. In fact, experts claim that mosquitoes have killed more people than all the wars in the world combined. Moreover, these lethal insects continue to claim the lives of about half a million people yearly.

Malaria from mosquitoes is responsible for most human deaths every year. But the humble mosquito carries many other diseases that are not prevalent in Massachusetts. The citizens of this state can count themselves lucky that the Zika virus, Dengue, Yellow Fever, and many others have not been introduced into the region.

In any event, the ones experts have recorded in Massachusetts are more than enough to deal with. You can learn about the various mosquito diseases and symptoms[JM1] that present a frequent pest control challenge in Massachusetts.

Until then, you can see what [mosquito species](https://www.cmmcp.org/mosquito-biology/pages/mosquito-species-mass) carry the specific diseases that plague the residents of Massachusetts in the table below. The most dangerous are the mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus and EEE.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mosquito Diseases in Massachusetts** | **Mosquito Species** |
| EEE from birds to humans[JM2]  | · Aedes vexans· Coquillettidia perturbans· Culiseta melanura· Ochlerotatus canadensis· Culex erraticus· Ochlerotatus sticticus· Ochlerotatus taeniorhynchus· Psorophora ferox |
| West Nile Virus | · Culex erraticus· Culex pipiens· Culex salinarius· Ochlerotatus japonicus japonicus· Ochlerotatus sticticus· Ochlerotatus triseriatus· Psorophora ferox |
| Cache Valley | · Ochlerotatus sticticus· Psorophora ferox |
| Highlands J | · Psorophora ferox |
| Jamestown Canyon | · Ochlerotatus provocans· Ochlerotatus sticticus· Psorophora ferox |
| St. Louis Encephalitis | · Culex erraticus |
| Trivittatus | · Ochlerotatus sticticus· Psorophora ferox |
| Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis | · Ochlerotatus taeniorhynchus |
| Heartworm To Dogs | · Ochlerotatus canadensis· Ochlerotatus excrucians· Ochlerotatus taeniorhynchus |

## **Vicious Mosquito Biters**

Not all mosquitoes carry viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Despite their non-threatening characteristics in terms of disease, many mosquito species are vicious, aggressive biters of people and animals.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Mosquito Species** | **Active Periods** | **Carry Disease** |
| Anopheles earlei | Dusk- and early-evening | No |
| Ochlerotatus intrudens | Day and night | No |
| Ochlerotatus punctor | Dawn, dusk, early evening, and after dark.They also bite during the day in dense brush areas. | No |
| Ochlerotatus sticticus | Daylight | Yes |
| Psorophora ciliata | Anytime | No |
| Psorophora columbiae | Day or night | No |
| Psorophora ferox | Anytime | Yes |

##  **FAQs About How You Can Protect Yourself From Mosquitoes**

There are several opportunities and activities that you can use to protect yourself from mosquitoes – indoors and outdoors.

* Eliminate standing water
* Trim your landscaping
* Use mosquito repellent
* Wear protective clothing
* Use organic pest control services[JM3]

Beyond these basics, people ask many questions about mosquitoes. Here are some FAQs and answers that will help protect you from mosquitoes and their diseases.

### **What Are Mosquitoes Attracted To?**

They love dark colors, so you should wear light clothing colors in the summer and spring. Mosquitoes are also attracted to human and animal carbon dioxide. Other appeals include human sweat and odor and body heat. Using mosquito repellants helps disguise these odors and deters mosquitoes.

### **What Do Mosquitoes Hate?**

Mosquitoes tend to avoid pungent odors like those in plants and essential oils. These scents include rosemary, peppermint, cedarwood, lavender, lemongrass, citronella, basil, cloves, sage, and eucalyptus.

### **What Are the Other Types of Plants That Deter Mosquitoes?**

The plants that deter mosquitoes are the same ones that they hate. You can see a list of some of these plants above. Other plants that help keep mosquitoes away include garlic, lemon thyme, lemon balm floss flower, citronella geranium, mint, citrosum, marigolds, oregano, parsley or thyme, nasturtiums, petunias, tansy, wormwood, and catnip. Certain types of mosquitoes also only feed on vegetation like pitcher plants and are known as pitcher mosquitoes.

### **Does Lavender Repel Mosquitoes?**

Mosquitoes hate the scent of lavender, so crush some leaves and flowers and place them in a bowl indoors and outdoors to repel them.

### **How To Get Rid of Mosquitoes in the House**

You can use any of the natural plants and oils above to help eliminate mosquitoes in the house. A better plan is to use organic pest control services from Safer Nature. Because of the diseases mosquitoes carry and the risks involved, traditional pest control applications[JM4] are also ideal for getting rid of mosquitoes.

### **Do Male Mosquitoes Bite?**

No – only the female mosquitoes bite because they need a blood meal to produce eggs. However, not all mosquito species feed on blood. Some live on plant nectar.

### **When Do Mosquitoes Come Out?**

Different types of mosquitoes are active at various times of the day. The table above shows when the most aggressive biters in Massachusetts are active.

### **Do Mosquitoes Bite Dogs?**

Some species do bite dogs. A few examples of these mosquito types are listed in the table above. These species are known to attack people and animals aggressively.

## **How To Kill Mosquitoes Quickly!**

One call to Safer Nature is the quickest way to get rid of mosquitoes and return your home and garden to a place of tranquility. **Our number is (978) 325-1325**. If emailing us is easier, complete our [online form](https://safernature.com/contact-us/) for a prompt callback.

We provide organic and traditional pest control services for mosquitoes, ticks, and other pests. We also offer combo mosquito and tick pest control services [JM5] for your convenience. Get in touch today to enjoy your spring and summer in peace.

 [JM1]MOSQUITO DISEASES AND SYMPTOMS IN MASSACHUSETTS

 [JM2]**LINK TO: Types of Deadly Diseases Spread by Common Insect Pests**

 [JM3]LINK TO: Massachusetts Organic Mosquito Pest Control Services

 [JM4]LINK TO: Traditional Mosquito Pest Control Services in Massachusetts

 [JM5]LINK TO: Combination Traditional Tick and Mosquito Pest Control in Massachusetts

# **Recognizing Mosquito Disease Symptoms In Massachusetts**

The discussion about mosquito diseases in Massachusetts comes with good news and bad news. The good news is that not all mosquitoes carry diseases. Of those that do in Massachusetts, cases of people being infected are rare.

The bad news is that no matter how scarce some of these diseases are, your health could be in grave danger if you catch one from an infected mosquito bite. This danger is partially due to some people being asymptomatic. So, the virus may lie dormant until the immune system becomes weak before producing adverse health reactions. Alternatively the victim may experience rapid mild or severe symptoms.

Because some of these diseases are rare, the medical profession can easily confuse their symptoms with other diseases or infections, like flu. When that happens, it also gives the virus the time to grow stronger. The victim is often the loser.

Here’s what you should know about the symptoms, diagnoses, and treatment of some of the worst mosquito-borne diseases in and around Massachusetts.

## **1. Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEE)**

### **Symptoms**

Chills, muscle, joint pain, and headaches may accompany the rapid start of a fever. Victims may experience a sensitivity to light known as photophobia and become nauseous and start vomiting. A stiff neck may indicate brain swelling, which can quickly lead to seizures, a coma, and death.

### **Diagnosis**

As many as 30% of people who develop severe symptoms die from this disease, so it is vital to seek immediate medical attention when symptoms first appear. A diagnosis involves testing the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or a blood test. This virus has been found in people and animals.

### **Treatment**

Treatment primarily supports alleviating the severity of the symptoms rather than treating the virus.

## **2. West Nile Virus (WNV)**

### **Symptoms**

Like the triple E virus, the symptoms of West Nile can be mild or severe. Typical symptoms often include a rash, fever, fatigue, headache, muscle, and joint pain, diarrhea, and vomiting. These symptoms can appear between two and 14 days after the initial infection.

Severe symptoms can include neurological impacts like paralysis, seizures, coma, confusion, disorientation, or loss of vision.

### **Diagnosis**

A medical professional will test for this virus using blood or cerebrospinal fluid and clinical analysis based on symptoms. There are reported cases of WNV infecting animals.

### **Treatment**

Like EEE, there is no specific treatment or cure. Instead, treatment is supportive of managing symptoms. Authorities recommend using techniques to protect yourself from mosquitoes[JM1] in the first place. These tips include keeping the outdoor space neat, eliminating standing water, wearing protective clothing, using repellents, and pest control services.

## **3. Cache Valley Virus (CVV)**

### **Symptoms**

Some people may be asymptomatic, but those with symptoms experience the same as those who have contracted the West Nile Virus. Although many people recover from this disease within a few weeks, some may experience ongoing neurological symptoms. Neurological consequences include encephalitis, meningitis, and seizures.

### **Diagnosis**

CVV affects people and animals, as with the WNV and EEE. Medical doctors base their diagnosis of this disease on clinical symptoms and laboratory testing of cerebrospinal fluid and blood.

###  **Treatment**

No specific treatment is available. But supportive medical treatment relieves symptoms until the patient can hopefully recover. Authorities advise people to use preventive measures to reduce their exposure to mosquitoes. Young people, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems are most at risk of contracting CVV and other mosquito-borne diseases.

## **4. Highlands J Virus (HJV)**

The [Highlands J Virus](https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/highlands-j-virus) appears to be related to the equine encephalitis family of viruses. It impacts passerines (perching birds) primarily. It also seems deadly for chickens and turkeys but is not an [alphavirus](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcell.2021.625711/full) that attacks the brain. We could not uncover evidence of reported human cases at the time of writing this article.

## **5. Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV)**

### **Symptoms**

As with many other mosquito diseases, the JCV mimics the symptoms of many mosquito-borne viruses. Some people experience mild symptoms and recover quickly. Others have no signs or develop severe symptoms quickly, including adverse neurological impacts like meningitis and encephalitis.

### **Diagnosis**

Although rare, there have been reported cases of JCV in the U.S. A diagnosis relies on antibodies in the blood to help identify the presence of this virus. JCV affects people and whitetail deer.

### **Treatment**

Because JCV is a virus, antibiotics are ineffective in treating the symptoms. Supportive medical treatments are the primary way to manage symptoms.

## **6. St. Louis Encephalitis (SLEV)**

### **Symptoms**

SLEV also causes flu-like symptoms in mild cases, plus vomiting, nausea, fatigue, and a rash. Many people recover within a few weeks to a few months. In severe instances, SLEV can progress to causing seizures, tremors, disorientation, confusion, paralysis, and coma. In rare cases, this virus can be fatal. Younger and older people and those with weak immune systems are most at risk of contracting this disease and developing more severe symptoms.

### **Diagnosis**

The medical doctor may order specific blood, cerebrospinal, or other bodily tissue testing to detect antibodies that may confirm the presence of this virus. SLEV also impacts people and animals.

### **Treatment**

Supportive care is available to reduce the effects of the virus. Hospitalization is a necessity in severe cases.

## **7. Trivittatus Virus**

One study states that the Trivittatus virus belongs to the [Bunyaviridae family](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26212363/) of viruses, specifically the [Orthobunyavirus](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00705-015-2532-x) genus. The same research links the Trivittatus virus with Bwamba/Pongola and Nyando and California encephalitis groups of viruses.

Not much information about the Trivittatus virus, its symptoms, diagnosis, or treatment is available. You can read more about the [Trivittatus virus](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/reports-publications/canada-communicable-disease-report-ccdr/monthly-issue/2015-41/ccdr-volume-41-06-june-4-2015/ccdr-volume-41-06-june-4-2015.html) and its links with other mosquito-borne diseases mentioned here.

The fact that this specific virus is so rare is positive for the moment, indicating that the risk of contracting it is low for people and animals.

## **8. Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE)**

### **Symptoms**

VEE symptoms also vary between people and the severity of the infection. But with so many other mosquito diseases, VEE also mimics many flu symptoms, making diagnosis challenging. Where mild cases show flu-like signs, severe cases manifest neurological issues like lumbosacral pain, dizziness, confusion, a stiff neck, seizures, and death in rare cases.

### **Diagnosis**

A professional medical diagnosis of VEE means examining the clinical symptoms and laboratory testing of blood and cerebrospinal fluid samples. This virus can infect people and animals.

### **Treatment**

Supportive care involves using intravenous fluids to manage symptoms like fever and symptoms. Hospitalization and intensive care are as necessary with VEE as with other mosquito diseases.

## **9. Heartworm in Dogs**

### **Symptoms**

Heartworm symptoms in dogs include coughing, respiratory difficulties, weight loss, pale gums, fatigue, lethargy, and a loss of appetite. This infection can increase rapidly and generate severe symptoms like affecting the dog's gait, bloating, and heart failure. Treating your dog regularly for worms to prevent an infestation and severe physical damage is advisable.

### **Diagnosis**

Your dog’s vet may order a blood test to check for the presence of larvae or adult heartworms.

### **Treatment**

Your vet may recommend a series of injections to eliminate adult heartworms. This treatment should be accompanied by monitoring to provide supportive therapy for complications like thromboembolisms caused by heartworms. Other supportive treatment includes medication to manage inflammation, pain, and coughing.

Prevention in the form of regular heartworm medication will help prevent the development of mild and severe infections.

## **Pest Control is a Successful Prevention Method**

Regarding a discussion about mosquito and tick diseases, most authorities recommend taking preventative measures to protect yourself. Besides cleaning up your garden, wearing suitable clothing, and other tips, pest control is the most important.

Call Safer Nature today to book your pest control treatment. We have organic and traditional mosquito and tick combination packages[JM2] to protect yourself. Alternatively, you can choose individual pest control options to safeguard against mosquito diseases.

Complete our [online form](https://safernature.com/contact-us/) for a callback. Or – call us at **(978) 325-1325**.

Take action today and protect your health and pets.

 [JM1]**Massachusetts Organic Mosquito Pest Control Services**

 [JM2]**LINK TO: Traditional Combo Tick & Mosquito Pest Control Packages**

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# **Types of Deadly Diseases Spread by Common Insect Pests**

Many types of diseases spread by common pests don't affect everyone, everywhere. But, since some of these insect pests, like mosquitoes and ticks, are incredibly dangerous for human health, it's worthwhile to learn what you're up against.

Once you know the hazard these insect pests pose to your family's health, you can call experts like Safer Nature to deal with infestations. This simple action helps protect you and your loved ones from what could be a lifetime of illness and low quality of life.

While we all hope it never happens to you or us, it's also better to take preventive action than deal with the health problem afterward.

## **Common Insect Pests and Their Diseases**

Our customers are often amazed to realize that common household pests spread multiple pathogens to people and pets. Because of this zoonotic characteristic that enables the transfer of diseases between hosts and people, it is critical to know how to safeguard your environment.

Here are a few examples of common pests and the diseases they can transmit to you and your family.

### **1. Ants**

Ants are among the most underestimated but impressively hardworking insects, with over 22,000 species. They live on all continents except Antarctica; most countries have native species. The U.S. has about 790 ant species, the most common being the carpenter, the odorous house, and the pavement ant.

Besides destroying home structures, wooden frames, drywalling, and electric wiring, ants also carry diseases. They spread diseases through their saliva, eliminations, bites, and by contaminating food sources.

Contact through these means can directly or indirectly spread diseases to people and other animals. If ants spread diseases to pets, these pets also threaten their owners' health.

Some ant bacteria and diseases are the following:

* Salmonella
* E. Coli
* Strep
* Shigella
* Clostridium
* Other Fungi
* Anthrax
* Dengue Fever
* Leishmaniasis
* Malaria

As harmless as these tiny creatures may seem, it's best to quickly sort out [ant infestations](https://safernature.com/ant-removal/) inside and outside the home to avoid unwanted consequences.

### **2. Bed Bugs**

The good news is that bed bugs don't carry or spread diseases. At least, that's what scientists always used to think. Now, they know better. Bed bugs can cause [Chagas disease](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4347337/) by acquiring and spreading the Trypanosoma cruzi parasite between hosts.

Even if bed bugs aren’t infected, they’re still incredibly creepy pests. They can cause skin irritations from bites, allergic reactions, secondary skin infections, and anemia. Other than that, they're harmless but will still cause significant psychological and physical distress for most people.

Choose the healthy pest control option to get rid of bed bugs quickly so you can sleep peacefully again.

### **3. Cockroaches**

There are many cockroach species, but the most significant pests in the U.S. are the American, German, Oriental, and Brown-banded cockroaches. The next question is whether they spread disease, and the answer is yes, they do. Cockroaches are known carriers of

* Cockroach Allergens
* Typhoid Fever
* Cholera
* Poliomyelitis
* Dysentery
* Leprosy
* Salmonella

Cockroaches walk over and through everything. In the process, they collect many pathogens, bacteria, and viruses, which they then spread to our crockery, cutlery, food supplies, and other items.

### **4. Dust Mites**

Fortunately, dust mites don't carry diseases. The biggest risk you face from these tiny creatures is that infestations can make breathing difficult. This respiratory aspect is most problematic for anyone with asthma and similar breathing problems. Alternatively, dust mites can cause respiratory and allergen issues like the following:

* Allergic rhinitis
* Asthma
* Eczema
* Conjunctivitis (pink eye)

Dust mites are tiny, microscopic organisms that live on pet dander and in the dust in homes. Your best bet is to keep the house clean to avoid infections from these creatures.

### **5. Fleas**

Fleas are nasty little critters that spread disease and parasites in animals and people. Some examples of these infections include:

* Parasites like tapeworms
* Bubonic plague
* Typhus fever
* Murine typhus
* Cat scratch disease
* Tularemia
* Tungiasis (sand fleas)

Fleas spread diseases and parasites through bites, poop, and the general dirt they create. Safer Nature has the expertise and the means to deal with [fleas](https://safernature.com/flea-removal/) and other infestations to restore hygienic conditions to your environment quickly. This process means you and your pets regain a peaceful, healthy lifestyle.

### **6. Ticks**

Another common pest in the environment is the tick. Ticks may look harmless, but they are vectors of many diseases. Some of the infections they spread can be quickly dealt with.

But the problem is that tick bite infections may go unnoticed for years, which is part of what makes them so destructive. Because of this delay, they are challenging to diagnose and treat. If you have a problem with ticks on your property, you should learn about deadly tick diseases [JM1] and how to manage them with various pest control techniques.

### **7. Mosquitoes**

These insects are annoying at best, preventing a peaceful sleep or interfering with your enjoyment of the outdoors. At worst, mosquitoes also carry dangerous diseases.

Those affecting Massachusetts citizens include the West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Besides these diseases, mosquitoes are vectors of the Jamestown Canyon virus, La Crosse virus, Zika virus, Dengue fever, Yellow fever, Chikungunya, malaria, and others.

Your best way to restore a peaceful indoor and outdoor environment is to seek professional help. Safer Nature pest control provides that help, keeping you safe from mosquito diseases[JM2] .

## **Non-Disease Carrying Insects**

Other groups of insects and arachnids don't carry diseases but are toxic. You can learn more about spider and stinging insect infestations and how to manage them at Small Pests – Big Pest Problems.[JM3]

## **Wildlife Problems**

Another pest problem that plagues many homeowners is wildlife invasions. Any manner of wildlife can invade your home and build nests in your roof, walls, ceilings, or garden. As with disease-carrying and toxic insects, you need expert help to remove wildlife pests [JM4] for their and your safety humanely.

## **Control Your Environment With Safer Nature**

From the relatively harmless to the highly lethal – insects can carry infectious diseases that will ruin your health. Your best course of action is to call Safer Nature Pest Control to support you through the ordeal of a common insect pest infestation.

We will advise you on the best action to protect your home and health. Call us at (978) 325-1325 for a quote today. Or send us an [online email](https://safernature.com/contact-us/), and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We will provide ongoing protection from pests to safeguard your health using organic or traditional pest control methods.

 [JM1]LINK: Common Tick Diseases in Massachusetts and Pest Control Prevention Techniques

 [JM2]LINK: **Organic Mosquito Pest Control Services in Massachusetts**

 [JM3]LINK: Small Pests – Big Pest Problems. - Still to be written.

 [JM4]LINK: **WILDLIFE HOME INVASIONS AND HOW THEY THREATEN YOUR HEALTH WITH DISEASES**

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# **Flea Diseases in People, Dogs, and Cats in Massachusetts**

Fleas are one of those annoying pests that live everywhere. They have six legs and can jump up to 200 times the length of their own bodies. Fleas live on blood, piercing the skin of their hosts and injecting them with their saliva.

If you have cats or dogs as pets, you'll know what flea magnets they are. You’ll also appreciate how challenging it is to get rid of fleas. It is an ongoing battle that all pet owners must control because fleas carry diseases to people, cats, dogs, and other animals.

If you allow flea populations to get out of control, you could be dealing with human flea diseases, cat flea diseases in humans, or even ingested flea diseases. Disgusting – but true!

## **Flea Diseases in Humans, Dogs, and Cats**

People typically get flea diseases from their pets or by walking outdoors. Fleas are present in nature and feed off rodents, raccoons, squirrels, and pets. If a creature has blood flowing through its veins, fleas will happily feed on them.

The dangers of this behavior include fleas picking up diseases and transferring these between hosts. Known as [zoonotic diseases](https://a-z-animals.com/blog/zoonotic-diseases-animal-borne-diseases-you-should-know-about/), they can make people and pets incredibly sick.

Here is a sample of flea diseases in humans that pets carry over to people.

### **1. Bubonic Plague**

Known as the Plague or the Black Death, this disease was transmitted by rats to people between 1330 to 1770. Because this disease killed so many people and they didn’t know what it was or its origins, it caused major fear.

Today, scientists understand that the bubonic plague is a rat flea disease that carries the Yersinia pestis bacteria. Although uncommon today, it remains a potentially fatal flea-borne disease in humans and pets. Fortunately, treatment with antibiotics is effective in combatting this disease.

### **2. Murine Typhus**

Flea diseases in humans include Murine typhus, which is a Rickettsia typhi bacterium. These bacteria are similar to Rickettsia rickettsii, which is a tick-borne illness. Instead of being transferred by bites, Rickettsia typhi are present in flea feces. This disease is also carried by rats [JM1] and fleas, which spread the bacteria to other hosts.

Flea disease symptoms from this germ include a full-body rash, muscle pains, headaches, and fever. A quick diagnosis and antibiotic treatment frequently lead to a full recovery from murine typhus. As with many zoonotic diseases, human and animal health often worsen if the medical professional cannot diagnose the symptoms correctly

### **3. Bartonellosis**

Bartonella henselae is one of the [flea diseases](https://www.vin.com/apputil/content/defaultadv1.aspx?id=3850265&pid=8768&print=1) in cats that makes cats sick and spreads to humans. This bacterium causes cat scratch disease in people. Symptoms include pus developing around the cat scratch, swollen lymph nodes, and fever.

If untreated, severe cases of bartonellosis or cat scratch disease can affect your internal organs, heart, brain, and eyes. Severe cases of this bacterium infection are unusual but possible if undiagnosed and untreated.

People and cats can recover from this bacterial infection without medication. But treating yourself and your pets with prescription antibiotics is best to limit the chances of spreading this disease.

### **4. Haemotropic Mycoplasmas**

[Dog and cat flea diseases](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20464683/#:~:text=Transmission%20of%20haemoplasmas%20may%20occur,the%20infection%20is%20completely%20eliminated.) that also impact people include Haemotropic mycoplasmas. This disease comes from infected fleas that pass the parasitic, bacterial illness to cats and dogs. Alternatively, dogs and cats can transfer this parasitic bacterium through open wounds, caused when fighting.

Ticks and mosquitoes can also spread this disease. This parasite infects the red blood cells of your pets and can trigger a fever and anemia. People can suffer similar symptoms, including weakness and loss of appetite. Anyone with a weak immune system is at risk of acquiring this infection.

Typical treatments involve antibiotics and possible blood transfusions in cats and dogs. Untreated, mycoplasmas can cause severe health damage in people and animals.

### **5. Tapeworms**

Tapeworms come from flea diseases in dogs and cats, among other animals. Pets can swallow fleas containing tapeworm eggs while grooming themselves. When this happens, the larvae can hatch in the pet’s intestines, causing a contagious transfer of this parasite.

Tapeworm symptoms include lethargy, loss of appetite, diarrhea, stomach ache, nausea, and loss of nutrition, leading to other health issues. The treatment for tapeworms in people and pets is deworming medication. These medications include praziquantel for animals and mebendazole and albendazole for people.

### **6. Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD)**

Dogs and cats can be allergic to flea saliva, which fleas inject into their hosts when sucking their blood. The flea bite site causes an allergy that becomes itchy and inflamed. The cat or dog's skin often swells and becomes painful. Your pet may also lose a lot of hair because of this flea allergy.

People can even have allergic responses to flea bites, requiring antihistamine creams or other medications. But if your pet suffers from FAD, the vet prescribes steroids or antibiotics due to secondary skin infections.

## **Pet’s Fleas – Home Infestation**

If your pet is scratching, the chances are they picked up fleas in your garden or on a walk. However they acquired the fleas, treating your pet is the only way to stop the fleas from becoming a problem.

If the flea infestation is really bad, you must take extra steps to clean up your environment. You must disinfect all your pet's bedding, spring clean the home, and clean up the property to treat the infestation.

Once a flea infestation sets in, it can take up to three months to bring it under control. The best option is to treat flea infestation professionally with organic or traditional pest control methods.

## **Expert Pest Control To Manage Flea Diseases**

Treating flea problems in the home and on pets is doable if done regularly. But if warm summer months promote a regional infestation, you’re in trouble. Also, if you have several pets and don’t manage their flea numbers, these quickly get out of hand as the females lay thousands of eggs.

Using store-bought products for the home and garden might seem like a good short-term solution. But our experience tells us the opposite is true. If you hire pest control experts from the start, it will be more cost-effective and safer. We will assess the situation and offer you our best solution – organic or traditional flea control.

Take the easy, effective route and call us at (978) 325-1325 to get ahead of your [flea pest control](https://safernature.com/flea-removal/) situation in Massachusetts today. You and your pets will be safer. You and your entire family will also be much more comfortable after a professional pest control service.

 [JM1]**LINK: Wildlife Home Invasions and How They Threaten Your Health**

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# **Harmless and Venomous Spider Pests in Massachusetts**

Like stinging insects such as wasps, bees, and hornets, spiders do not carry diseases. Instead, spiders in the home and garden are often harmless. However, Massachusetts has its fair share of venomous spiders. It also has quite a collection of harmless spiders that make themselves comfortable in the home and garden.

But before you start stressing about how to get rid of spiders, you should learn more about them. Find out what they are, the difference between venomous and poisonous spiders, and what species live in Massachusetts.

## **What Are Spiders?**

Spiders are arthropods belonging to the arachnid class and the Araneae order. Some live on plant material. Others live on proteins like other insects.

People often ask how many legs do spiders have. The answer is they have eight legs. Spiders typically have four pairs of eyes. These arachnids also have two body parts, the head, and thorax.

There are over 50,000 spider species worldwide, which is separated into 132 families. Spiders also live on every continent, except for Antarctica.

Spider species worldwide have three different homebuilding techniques. They either live in the ground, build webs, or don’t build webs and live in trees, plants, other elevated areas, and homes.

## **What Is the Difference Between Venomous and Poisonous Spiders?**

[Venomous creatures](https://www.britannica.com/story/whats-the-difference-between-venomous-and-poisonous) include anything that has fangs or stingers and injects toxins into people or other animals. Most spiders are venomous, but only a few are dangerous to people because their fangs are too small to pierce human skin.

Poisonous spiders and other creatures like toads and snakes are dangerous only when eaten by other animals. In other words, they don't inject toxins into their victims, but if something eats them, they can die due to the poisons they contain.

Although this distinction between injecting toxins and consuming poisons can be confusing, it is also quite simple. If it can inject you with a substance, it is probably venomous. If you eat it and it makes you sick or kills you, it is poisonous.

## **Harmless Types of House Spiders in Massachusetts**

There are primarily three spider species that you see indoors in Massachusetts. These species are the daddy long legs, the house spider, and the American house spider.

* **Daddy long legs** belong to a group of spiders with tiny bodies and exceptionally long, delicate legs. Other spiders in this family are cellar spiders, gyrating spiders, long daddy, skull spiders, carpenter spiders, and others. They are harmless and typically look for secluded spots in the home to weave their webs and capture their prey.
* **Common house spiders**, or Tegenaria domestica, are a family of house spiders that inhabit North America and elsewhere. This Tengenaria family has small species like the Tegenaria domestica (less than half an inch) to the larger Tegenaria parietina that grows to over five inches. The barn funnel weavers or drain spiders are other names for some spiders in this family. They build webs and also hunt away from their webs.
* **American house spider** (Parasteatoda Tepidariorum) – although venomous, these house spiders are non-aggressive. They are also too small to be harmful to people.

## **Venomous But Not Dangerous Spiders**

It may sound strange, but not all venomous spiders are dangerous to people. Many venomous spiders are not aggressive except toward their prey. Here are two species you may see in or near the home in Massachusetts.

* **Wolf spider species** grow between 0.4 and 1.38 inches. Although they may come inside to catch prey or for shelter, they don't typically live in houses. Because some species are pretty big spiders and look like common house spiders, people often confuse the species.

The wolf spider bite may be painful but is not dangerous and seldom requires hospitalization or special medical care. Besides, these spiders tend to stay outdoors and away from people.

* **Yellow sac spiders** also live and hunt outdoors. Occasionally, they may venture inside and live in dark spaces. Like the wolf spider, the yellow sac spider only weaves webs for egg sacs and as shelters.

Also like the wolf spider, their bite can be painful, but you will unlikely need hospitalization. However, you may need some medical attention depending on the amount of venom it injects into you if you’re unlucky enough to get on its bad side.

People sometimes confuse the yellow sac spider with the brown recluse spider. They're not the same, so try to capture one if it bites you, as medical treatment will be vastly different for the two spider bites.

## **Venomous Spiders**

Massachusetts features four types of spiders that are venomous and possibly dangerous to people.

* The **Northern Black Widow** (Latrodectus variolus) is uncommon in Massachusetts. When these widow spiders appear, it is usually in spring and summer. This species is venomous, and its poison attacks the nervous system. Victims may experience seizures and death. However, attacks on people are rare, and adults with healthy immune systems mostly survive the bites of these spiders.
* **Brown widow** (Latrodectus geometricus) spiders are not nearly as dangerous as black widow spiders despite the fearsome reputation of this family. Because they are smaller than the black widow, they inject less venom with each bite. However, only the lower dose makes their neurotoxic venom less dangerous than the black widow. Luckily, these spiders are rare in Massachusetts, as are reports of them attacking people.
* **Black widow spiders** (Latrodectus mactans) are also known as the black widow, southern black widow, or shoe-button spider. Only adult females can deliver exceptionally venomous bites. Despite their reputation, though, adult people with robust immune systems can easily survive these bites, although they are painful.
* **Brown recluse spiders** are rarely seen in Massachusetts. These spider bites are necrotic, often causing rotting skin around the bite. Their venom can also cause other adverse and severe reactions.

## **Spider Pest Control in Massachusetts**

There are few reports of venomous spider encounters with people. When there are encounters, these are seldom fatal. Spiders generally avoid people, but you still don’t want nests of them in your garden or home.

The biggest problem from [spiders](https://safernature.com/spider-removal/) is infestations and having them overrun your home or garden. Another issue is that their presence often signifies other insect populations, providing them an ongoing food source.

You can keep spider populations in check with natural, organic, or conventional pest control methods. [Call us](https://safernature.com/contact-us/) for a free quote and evaluation of your pest problem, and we’ll happily help you to resolve the issue.

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# **Small Stinging Insects – Big Pest Control Problems**

Several stinging insects in Massachusetts can quickly become harmful pests in the home and garden. Many of these insects belong to the Hymenoptera order, which is venomous.

Besides becoming a problem due to their stinging nature and venom, these insects can cause plenty of property damage. A closer look quickly helps homeowners recognize the differences between these types of stinging insects.

We close off this guideline with pest control options from Safer Nature. Typically, our pest control methods cover organic and conventional strategies, resolving population overgrowth.

## **Common North American Stinging Insects in Massachusetts**

Stinging insects are an interesting mixture of beneficial and harmful characteristics, so viewing them as pests is difficult. However, several flying stinging insects are a threat due to the venom they carry.

Some people may be allergic to this venom and suffer painful inflammation from bites or stings. Others can have severe anaphylaxis caused by stinging insects, which can be fatal. Here, we explore what stinging insects nest in the ground, your home, and your garden.

### **1. Yellow Jacket Wasp**

Massachusetts is home to several yellow jacket species, the worst stinging insects. The species that inhabit this state include the German, eastern, and common yellow jackets. These insects grow from 3/8 to 5/8 of an inch long. They have distinctive yellow and black bands on their bodies.

These stinging insects nest in the ground, tree stumps, and hollow logs. Besides the outdoors, they make nests in areas like attics, barns, eaves, and walls. The nests of these stinging insects can grow to include over 100,000 adult wasps.

Yellow jackets are known for their swarming behavior and respond quickly and aggressively to threats. They can sting their victims repeatedly without dying.

Avoid wearing perfume and bright colors if you know of a nest nearby. Also, do not kill any of them, as this will alert the swarm to a threat, prompting a potentially deadly attack.

These stinging insects are responsible for over half a million emergency room visits yearly. They are especially dangerous for people who are allergic to their venom.

### **2. Paper Wasps**

Paper wasps are familiar sights in Massachusetts, growing between 3/4 to 1.5 inches long. The European and brown northern paper wasps are semi-social and build small nests housing four to 30 adults. They make hanging nests in and around the home and in gardens.

Paper wasps are not aggressive but will sting if provoked. These wasps also don’t lose their stingers and can sting repeatedly. People often mistake the European paper wasp for a yellow jacket. These wasps are more of a nuisance factor than a danger.

### **3. Cicada Wasps**

Cicada killer wasps grow up to two inches and focus on killing and eating cicadas. They build their nests in dry, well-drained soil.

Cicada wasps are not aggressive and are harmless to people. However, if there are too many nests and wasps around, they can become a nuisance.

### **4. Bald Faced or White-Faced Hornet Wasp**

Bald Faced or White-Faced hornets are not true hornets but are relatives of the yellow jacket wasp. This relationship should give you an idea that these black stinging insects with white face markings are similarly aggressive in defending themselves against perceived threats.

These wasps grow to between 0.5 and 5/8 of an inch. They build hanging nests attached to trees and home structures rather than in the ground. They will signal the colony to attack if something or someone disturbs their nests. They can also sting repeatedly and retain their stingers.

### **5. European Giant Hornet Wasp**

Another stinging insect in Massachusetts that looks like a wasp is the European giant hornet. It shares similarities with the Asian giant or murder hornet.

The European giant hornet's head is darker than the murder hornet's. It also features a dark band on the abdomen and teardrop patterns like the yellow jacket instead of bands like the murder hornet. This wasp builds its nests in tree hollows or underground. It is not an aggressive stinging insect.

### **6. Asian Giant or Murder Hornet**

The murder hornet, or [Asian Giant hornet](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/just-how-dangerous-is-the-murder-hornet/), is New England's only true hornet species. These giant stinging insects share similar physical features with the German yellow jacket but grow between 1 and 1.5 inches.

Murder hornets are nocturnal and nest in tree hollows and other empty spaces. Because they are primarily active at night, they have little interaction with people, so attacks are rare. However, this invasive species gets its name from ripping the heads off bees, so it requires pest control to protect bee species.

### **7. Carpenter Bees**

Carpenter bees are a problem because they make holes in wooden structures for nesting purposes. They favor burrowing into siding, rafters, eaves, decks, and wooden furniture.

Because of this burrowing characteristic, they weaken wooden house frames, patios, and more. This behavior poses a threat by weakening critical housing frameworks and the value of your property. Although female carpenter bees can sting, they are seldom a threat to people or pets.

### **8. Honey Bees**

Honey bees build massive wax hives on or in walls, on trees, or in cavities in nature or homes. These bees are less than an inch long and are active throughout the year, making honey. The colonies of these small stinging insects number anything from 4,000 to 50,000.

Worker bees protect the hive by stinging intruders with venomous barbs. The barb contains a tiny sac of venom which the bee deposits into the intruder's body. This sac continues to release venom to take care of the threat. The worker bee loses its life in the process.

### **9. Bumble Bees**

These small stinging insects make their nests in ground cavities, beneath outside structures, or against or on frameworks near the ground. They are seasonal stinging insects lasting only for the summer. The queen continues their species, beginning a new hive the following spring.

Bumble bees aggressively protect their hives. They can sting multiple times without dying. Unfortunately, their numbers are declining, despite their plant-pollinating benefits. Because of this essential pollinating behavior, it is best to protect bees and bumble bees. Relocation is far better than using pesticides to remove them from a specific area.

## **Control Your Environment With Safer Nature Pest Control**

This short list of stinging insects gives you an idea of the types of pests that can threaten your life and property in Massachusetts. Besides mosquitoes[JM1] , these stinging insects can be harmful or harmless.

Suppose you feel that you or your property are under threat. In that case, Safer Nature has various pest control options to help manage the situation.

Depending on the extent of the problem, we may suggest relocating small stinging insects like bees. If the problem involves yellow jackets, we may recommend organic or traditional pest control methods to solve the problem.

[Contact us online](https://safernature.com/contact-us/) or call (978) 325-1325 for a Safer Nature solution that works.

 [JM1]LINK: Tick and Mosquito Combo Organic Packages .

# **Wildlife Home Invasions and How They Threaten Your Health**

## Rats and mice may not quite count as wildlife because they’re also common domestic pets. But rats and mice are typically seen as dirty disease-spreading rodents in the wild. However, these animals are rodents like squirrels and voles and are disease-carrying pests that make their homes in urban areas.

## Besides these mammals, bats also carry diseases and can reside in private homes. Other common wildlife that threatens human health are birds and raccoons.

## As much as these creatures have a right to live, they should do so in the wild. Because when they move into human territories, they, unfortunately, bring diseases.

## **How Wildlife Spreads Diseases**

Wildlife spreads diseases through many means, such as bodily fluids, bites, and infected excretions. People and animals unknowingly touch or breathe in these germs, often generating devastating health consequences.

People and pets can pick up diseases from wildlife in several ways, such as:

* Breathing in fungal spores or droplets of air from infected wildlife excretions.
* Contact with their saliva, urine, or droppings.
* Cross-contamination by touching areas where wildlife has been and then touching their faces, mouths, open sores, etc.
* Bites or scratches.
* Eating food and drinking water contaminated by wildlife.
* Wildlife feeds on diseased prey like cockroaches, fleas, or ticks and then infect people through bites and contamination of items.
* Fleas, ticks, mites, and mosquitoes that have fed on diseased wildlife can also pass diseases to people indirectly.

### **1. Rodents**

Mostly, rodents like rats and mice make their nests in people’s homes because they offer warm, safe environments to build nests. Otherwise, voles can be a problem in people’s gardens. Even [squirrel](https://safernature.com/squirrel-exclusion/) populations can grow to such an extent that the diseases they carry threaten human health.

People can pick up rodent diseases in various direct and indirect ways, so using a [rodent pest control](https://safernature.com/rat-removal/) removal service is crucial to stay safe.

The table below contains a list of many infections spread by rodents. Not all rodents carry all these diseases. Also, rodents distribute many indirect diseases via vectors like ticks, fleas, lice, and mosquitoes.

|  |
| --- |
| **Diseases Spread By Rodents** |
| [**Direct diseases**](https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/wildlife/rodent-control.html) | **Indirect diseases** |
| Hantavirus (Sin Nombre virus) | Anaplasmosis |
| Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome | Angiostrongylus |
| Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome | Babesiosis |
| Lassa Fever | Borreliosis |
| Leptospirosis | Colorado tick fever |
| Lujo Hemorrhagic Fever | Cutaneous leishmaniasis |
| Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis (LCM) | Flea-borne (Murine) Typhus |
| Monkeypox | Hymenolepis diminuta |
| Omsk Hemorrhagic Fever | La Crosse virus |
| Rabies | Leprosy or Hansen’s disease |
| Rat-Bite Fever | Leptospirosis |
| Salmonellosis | Lyme disease |
| South American Arenaviruses (Argentine, Bolivian, Chapare, Sabiá-associated, and Venezuelan hemorrhagic fevers) | Moniliformis moniliformis |
| Sylvatic Typhus | Plague |
| Tularemia | Powassan virus |
|   | Rickettsialpox |
|   | Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) |
|   | Scrub typhus |
|   | Tick-borne Relapsing Fever |
|   | Tularemia |

### **2. Bat Diseases**

Another form of wildlife that enjoys hiding in dark areas in homes is bats. Nesting in homes means that bats can evade predation, but they can also become a problem. Typical signs of bats living in ceilings include squeaking sounds, foul smells from their urine, droppings, and rustling noises.

It’s vital to get expert help to remove bats humanely because they carry many diseases. They can transfer parasites, fungi, bacteria, and viruses to people, which severely impacts their health.

Some of the [diseases that native bats transfer](https://iacuc.wsu.edu/zoonoses-bats/#:~:text=The%20primary%20zoonotic%20diseases%20associated,salmonellosis%2C%20yersiniosis%20and%20external%20parasites.) to people in the U.S. are the following:

* Rabies
* Histoplasmosis
* Salmonellosis
* Yersiniosis
* External parasites

Imported bats also carry dangerous bacteria and viruses that can cause severe or fatal harm to people. These diseases are:

* Nipah virus
* Hendra virus
* Ebola virus
* Marburg virus
* Sars coronavirus
* Others

Another way to control bat infestations and diseases is to erect bat houses on your property. When you do this, you direct them away from your home. However, it will still be vital to maintain a reasonable distance between yourself and the bat house to avoid contact with their diseases. Pest control will also need to treat areas to limit the potential for infection.

### **3. Raccoon Diseases**

As cute as they are, raccoons are known as dumpster divers. They collect bacteria from these trash-diving habits and living in the wild. Consequently, they can transfer several infections to people, the worst being through their poop.

Because of this danger, you don't want wild raccoons setting up a home near where you live. Raccoon diseases are particularly harmful (even fatal) for children and older adults. They also threaten the health of domestic animals.

Raccoon [viral, bacterial](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/UW478), and parasitic diseases include:

* Rabies
* Canine distemper
* Feline distemper/panleukopenia
* Canine parvovirus
* Salmonella
* Francisella tularensis (tularemia)
* Edwardsiella tarda septicemia
* Leptospirosis
* Roundworm
* Giardiasis

We often advise our customers to take extra precautions to discourage raccoons from visiting or living in and around their homes. One tip is to ensure these animals cannot access your garbage containers. If you have pets, keep their food and water bowls inside. If raccoons don't have the incentive to hang around your home, they can't spread diseases.

### **4. Bird Diseases**

Several bird species also like nesting in home ceilings and rafters. Typical species that gravitate towards homes for shelter and breeding include sparrows, pigeons, crows, and grackles. Birds frequently carry harmful [zoonotic diseases](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/PS019) or can spread infections to people.

If you notice lots of birds congregating around your home or noises on your roof or in the ceiling, you probably have a bird infestation in the making. Bird infections include fungal, protozoal, bacterial, and viral types like the following:

* Avian influenza or bird flu
* Encephalitis viruses like the Eastern Equine Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, and the West Nile viruses.
* Newcastle disease
* Avian tuberculosis
* Chlamydiosis or Chlamydophila psittaci
* Salmonellosis
* Colibacillosis
* Cryptosporidiosis
* Toxoplasmosis

Like bat houses, homeowners with substantial space can erect birdhouses on their property to help prevent birds from living on their home roofs. You can also call Safer Control to treat for possible pests in your ceilings and rafters before sealing these areas properly.

## **Control Your Environment with Safer Nature Pest Control**

Safer Nature offers pest removal services, including humanely removing some wildlife. Speak to us about your pest problem. We will quickly advise whether we are licensed for the specific wildlife removal or whether the State requires its officials to relocate the wildlife.

 Alternatively, some Massachusetts laws prohibit the removal of certain wildlife from private property, like raccoons. We will inform you of your options within legal parameters.

Whatever your wildlife pest problem, you will probably need a follow-up pest treatment[JM1] for vectors like fleas, lice, and ticks. When that happens, [email us online](https://safernature.com/contact-us/) for a free quote or call us at (978) 325-1325. We will advise you on organic and traditional pest control options to restore a safe hygienic environment.

 [JM1]**LINK TO: Organic Tick Control Services in Massachusetts Since 2002**

# **Why Do You Need Mosquito Management in Massachusetts?**

There are over 3,000 mosquito species worldwide. Of these, 150 live in North America. There are an impressive 52 species of mosquitoes in Massachusetts. Not all of them feed on blood in the adult stage, satisfying their need for protein during the larvae growth phase.

Other mosquito species live their adult lives feeding on plants. Some types of mosquitoes are even cannibalistic and will feed on other mosquito species or larvae. Some of them are dangerous, posing many threats to human and animal health:

* Mosquitoes carry horrific diseases, including the West Nile Virus, Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), malaria, etc.
* Mosquitoes kill more people across the world than many other creatures.
* Recent studies show that mosquitoes carrying EEE, West Nile Virus, and Babesiosis have infected almost 800 people in Massachusetts.
* Each female mosquito lays over 600 eggs in her lifetime. These eggs can survive up to eight months through every season.

## **Active Mosquito Times**

Many mosquito species are active at dusk and dawn, but the nighttime is also when other species become busy. Most mosquitoes avoid bright daylight hours and thrive when temperatures range between 50 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Additionally, the active period during the warm months varies between mosquito types. Some are most active during early spring. Others thrive better as the temperatures heat up. Yet other types of mosquitoes become more active at the height of summer, while others thrive in the cooler weeks approaching the fall.

Almost all these species lay thousands of eggs during the breeding season, producing multiple generations. As time passes, mosquito populations grow until their numbers become unbearable.

## **Mosquito Threats and Diseases**

Left untreated, the sheer volume of these annoying, buzzing insects threatens our most basic levels of comfort and sleep. Their bites can leave nasty itchy welts and cause allergic reactions. Scratching the bite sights can create secondary skin infections, requiring antibiotic treatment.

These outcomes are annoying inconveniences, but there is a far greater danger in the presence of these insects. At worst, mosquitoes carry diseases that can be life-threatening or at least seriously impact human health.

Mosquitoes carry two serious diseases:

* Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)
* West Nile virus

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# **Why Do You Need Tick Pest Control Services?**

## **Ticks in Massachusetts and Their Diseases**

Six main ticks in Massachusetts spread bacteria and viruses to people and pets. These ticks are the following:

* American dog tick
* Asian long-horned tick
* Brown dog tick
* Deer ticks (or the Eastern black-legged tick)
* Groundhog tick
* Lone Star tick

Some of the diseases that these ticks transmit to our pets and human hosts include:

* Anaplasmosis
* Babesiosis microti
* Borrelia miyamotoi
* Ehrlichiosis
* Lyme disease
* Powassan disease
* Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF)
* Tularemia

Most of these diseases have serious repercussions – whether treated or not. The point is that infected ticks are dangerous, so it is critical to use pest control services to keep them at bay.

## **Lyme Disease Statistics for Massachusetts**

If you aren’t yet aware of the dangers of tick-borne diseases in Massachusetts, look at a few official statistics for the State.

* Massachusetts consistently has one of the country's highest rates of Lyme disease.
* In 2020, there were 7,804 confirmed and probable cases of Lyme disease reported in Massachusetts.
* Middlesex County had the highest reported cases in 2020, with 1,576 confirmed and probable cases.
* Worcester County had the second-highest reported cases in 2020, with 1,394 confirmed and probable cases.
* Most Lyme disease cases in Massachusetts occur between May and August, with a peak in June and July.
* Lyme disease symptoms can include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic "bull's eye" rash.
* Lyme disease can lead to more severe symptoms, such as joint pain and swelling, heart palpitations, and neurological problems if left untreated.

Given the high rates of Lyme disease in Massachusetts, it's essential to take steps to prevent tick bites. If you suspect a tick has bitten you, see a rash, or experience flu-like symptoms, seek immediate medical attention. Safer Nature Pest Control's organic tick control services can help reduce your risk of tick bites and Lyme disease.

If you prefer, you can also explore our traditional pest control solutions for managing tick populations on your property. Looking at the benefits and disadvantages of organic pest control and traditional methods [JM1] helps our customers make wise choices.

 [JM1]**Link to Organic Mosquito Pest Control Services in Massachusetts**

**Call us at 978-325-1325 for your free pest control services quote in Massachusetts today.**

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# **The Organic Pest Control Solution**

Our Safer Nature organic pesticide is 100% safe and is exempt from the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. That means our pest control solution is certified organic and effective.

Here are some obvious benefits you can expect when using Safer Nature's organic pest control method to keep mosquito populations under control.

### **Benefits of Organic Pest Control Services**

There are many benefits to using organic mosquito control services, including the following:

1. **Safe for the environment:** Organic mosquito control services use natural ingredients that are safe for the environment and don't harm beneficial insects, birds, or plants.
2. **Safe for humans and pets:** Organic mosquito control services are safe for use with people and pets. This organic strategy means you can enjoy your outdoor space without worrying about toxic exposure.
3. **Long-lasting protection:** Our organic mosquito control services offer long-lasting protection against mosquitoes. This protection means you can enjoy your outdoor space without having to reapply repellent constantly.

We also provide mosquito and tick combination packages for additional safety from the multiple tick-borne diseases prevalent in Massachusetts.

**Call us at 978-325-1325 for your free organic pest control services quote in Massachusetts today.**

### **Drawbacks of Organic Pest Control Services**

Safer Nature believes in being transparent and upfront with our customers. To do that, we provide enough information for you to make wise decisions. Although organic pest control has terrific benefits, it also has a few drawbacks – which pretty much describe life. Here are some of the disadvantages of organic pesticides:

1. **Might take longer:** They are gentler on nature, so they may take longer to take effect.

2. **Need regular pest control:** Because they’re gentle on the environment, you will most likely need more regular pest control applications to manage infestations.

3. **More costly:** More regular pest control applications may make this practice more costly. The good news is that certain pests are more active in specific seasons, which balances out the costs of organic and traditional pest control options.

4. **Environmental influences:** Some environmental factors may reduce the efficacy of organic pest control methods.

**Call us at 978-325-1325 to get your free quote for organic pest control services in Massachusetts now.**

## **FAQs About Organic and Traditional Pest Control Services In Massachusetts**

### **How do organic pest control services work?**

Organic mosquito control services use natural ingredients like essential oils to repel mosquitoes. These ingredients are sprayed around your property, creating a barrier that mosquitoes find unappealing.

### **How do traditional pest control services work?**

Your Safer Nature pest control expert will spray a traditional product around your property in select places to eliminate an immediate pest threat and ongoing risks from that pest. The standard procedure is to spray traditional applications every two to four weeks, especially during high-risk periods.

### **Is organic pest control as effective as traditional pesticides?**

While organic pest control may not be as rapid as traditional pesticides, it can still protect against mosquito bites significantly. Organic mosquito and tick pest control services work best when combined with other control measures like eliminating standing water and wearing protective clothing.

### **Are organic mosquito and tick pest control services safe for children and pets?**

Yes, organic mosquito and tick pest control services are safe for children and pets. The natural ingredients used in these services are not harmful to humans or animals.

### **Are traditional mosquito and tick control services safe for children and pets?**

It is always advisable to keep vulnerable people like the elderly and children away from traditional pest control spray zones as much as possible. Likewise, keeping pets away from direct access to conventional spray zones is recommended for at least 30 minutes to allow the application time to dry. After that, it is safe to enter the area.

### **How often do I need to have organic mosquito control services done?**

The frequency of organic mosquito and tick pest control services depends on several factors, including the size of your property and the severity of the mosquito problem. In general, it's recommended to have organic mosquito control services done every one to two weeks during the mosquito and tick season.

### **Can I use traditional mosquito and tick pest control methods alongside organic mosquito control services?**

Yes, you can still use traditional mosquito and tick control methods like bug zappers, mosquito nets, tick bait, and other pesticides alongside organic mosquito pest control services.

 **PRICING depends on the size of your property, so call us at (978) 325-1325 for a quote.**

# **Traditional Pest Control Services in Massachusetts**

## **Benefits of Traditional Pest Control Services**

Everyone is trying to live healthier lifestyles that are more conscious about the environment's welfare. But life is a series of give and take, weighing the good against the beneficial, destructive, and less harmful options. Our customers should know about the short-term disadvantages of traditional mosquito pest control methods in comparison with the long-term benefits too:

1. **Highly effective:** Modern traditional pesticides are incredibly effective, often requiring fewer applications than organic ones. Because they work so well, they effectively eliminate mosquito infestations and reduce further infestations.
2. **Long-lasting:** Traditional pest control methods work quickly and last long, ensuring you enjoy your lifestyle in peace.
3. **Convenient application:** These methods are quick and easy to apply to ensure minimum invasion of homeowner privacy.
4. **Affordable:** Traditional methods are highly affordable due to efficacy and fewer applications.
5. **Safer:** Over time and with regular testing, traditional pesticides have become safer for people, pets, and the environment.

**Get Rid of Ticks and Mosquitoes the Conventional Way – Quickly and Effectively! Call us at (978) 325-1325 for your combo package quote.**

## **Drawbacks of Traditional Pest Control Services**

Here are some of the drawbacks of using traditional pest control methods:

1. **Environmental harm:** Yes – these methods are more harmful to soil, air, plants, water, and other ecosystems. However, these ecosystems are also resilient and tend to recover quickly when care is taken in applying this pest control method.
2. **Health:** Vulnerable people, like the young, elderly, and those with susceptible immune systems, should avoid exposure to traditional pest control methods as far as possible. The same applies to pets. If you use this method, keeping your pets away from treated areas for at least 30 minutes is necessary to allow the product to dry.
3. **Imprecise:** Traditional pest control targets the infestation but can also cause casualties in terms of other beneficial insects. We advise our customers on their options when treating deadly pest invasions.
4. **Resistance:** Pests can become immune to specific traditional pest control methods over time, so Safer Nature recommends alternating treatment methods.

### **Call us at (978) 325-1325 now to schedule an appointment for a free, traditional tick control quote. Keeping your family and pets safe is priceless!**

## **Traditional Pest Control Pros**

* Permethrin is a United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) registered product.
* It works quickly and efficiently to control mosquito and tick populations that often carry life-threatening diseases.
* If is safe for use on people, dogs, and the environment
* It is used on foods and to protect crops.
* Manufacturers use permethrin on clothing and mosquito nets to protect people.
* It is unlikely to contaminate ground water.
* Microorganisms in the soil degrade this product.

## **Traditional Pest Control Cons**

* Human contact can cause headaches, nausea, vomiting, difficulty breathing, skin irritation, burning and swelling. Medical attention is advisable should these symptoms appear.
* Human ingestion can cause stomach pain, a painful throat, nausea, and vomiting. It is advisable to get medical help if this should happen.
* Dog and cat exposure can cause unusual behavior like flicking paws, rolling on the ground, ear twitching, drooling, or lip smacking. Anxiety and strange walking behavior may be present. Tremors and seizures are possible. The owners should take their pets to the vet if they notice this behavior following store bought insect control applications or otherwise.
* Permethrin does not degrade well in water, and it is extremely toxic for fish and other aquatic life (salt and fresh water).
* Permethrin is not good for bees.
* Scientists have found trace amounts of permethrin in vegetables and fruits. However, only 1% of the 1,700 food samples they tested contained a trace of this product.

###  **Get Rid of Ticks and Mosquitoes the Conventional Way – Quickly and Effectively! Call us now at (978) 325-1325 for your combo package quote.**

## **FAQs About Traditional Pest Control in Massachusetts**

### **Mosquitoes**

#### **How often should I use traditional mosquito pest control services?**

We highly recommend using our services once or twice monthly to control mosquito populations. This frequency depends on your property, the season, and the extent of the mosquito problem at the time.

#### **Are traditional mosquito pest control methods safe for people and pets?**

Yes – our traditional product applications are safe for people and pets. However, cats must stay away from the spray area for at least 30 minutes to give the product time to dry properly.

#### **Do I need to be at home when you spray?**

No – we spray the outside of the home to treat for mosquitoes, so you don't have to be at home.

#### **How long does it take for the mosquitoes to start dying?**

Mosquitoes die on contact with the product. Homeowners typically notice a difference within two to three days after the application.

### **Ticks**

#### **Is my property still safe from ticks if it rains after a traditional product application?**

Yes – it takes less than 30 minutes for the application to dry. After that, you will have protection from ticks. If it looks like we won’t be able to do an application before the rain starts, we will postpone the appointment for another day.

#### **How does the traditional tick control application work?**

The product bonds with the foliage, grass, and perimeter areas where we spray. We avoid spraying flowers and shrubs that attract bees to support the pollination and survival of these insects. Ticks die soon after contact with the traditional pest control application.

#### **Do our customers need to do anything before a treatment?**

Yes. Please unlock the necessary gates to ensure we can access the property if you're not home. We require our customers to clear the property of any toys and gardening equipment. It is also advisable to keep your pets indoors until we have completed the job. Please remove debris and vegetation before our visit, as this will minimize the presence of ticks in your garden.

#### **Is traditional tick control better than organic tick control?**

Both are good. Organic tick control is more expensive as it requires more frequent applications every one to two weeks. Organic pest control also takes a little longer than conventional methods but is gentler on nature. In contrast, we recommend applying traditional pest control methods every two to four weeks. Conventional tick control methods also work faster than organic products.

**CONVENTIONAL TICK AND MOSQUITO PEST CONTROL SERVICES FROM SAFER NATURE IN MASSACHUSETTS. GET YOUR FREE QUOTE AFTER CALLING US AT (978) 325-1325.**

## **FAQs About Conventional Pest Control Applications**

**1. What is permethrin?**

We use [permethrin](http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/PermGen.html#howwork) in our traditional pest control applications. Permethrin contains properties that are similar to those in the chrysanthemum flower but is a synthetic product. Permethrin has been a registered product with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) since 1979.

**2. Where is permethrin used?**

Authorities use this product to protect crops like wheat, alfalfa, maize, and cotton. Other applications include its use on mosquito nets, to protect stored animal products like sheep’s wool. Additionally, it is used to protect food, livestock, and pets from disease-carrying insects like mosquitoes and ticks.

Permethrin is also commonly used on clothing as a protective measure. Other uses of this application include its use in public places such as restaurants where food is prevalent.

**3. How does permethrin work?**

This product is exceptionally effective because it starts affecting insects immediately they ingest it or come into contact with it. This product impacts the insect’s nervous system, starting with spasms, paralysis, and death. In other words, permethrin is lethal for insects because they cannot process this product.

In contrast, people and dogs can process permethrin well. However, cats are not designed to cope well with this traditional pest control application.

**4. What are some products that contain permethrin?**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates about 1,400 registered permethrin-containing products. So, permethrin has a prominent position in our modern society.

Besides companies using it to manage pest populations, it is present in multiple medications and other applications. For instance, it is present in aerosols, dusts, powders, pet shampoos and liquids that are used for insect population control, and protection.

Permethrin is in tick and flea applications that are made for dogs. This product is also used to protect livestock. Topical creams contain permethrin and are prescribed to treat lice and scabies infestations on people.

 **5. Are children more sensitive to permethrin than adults?**

Tests have been conducted to determine the risk to health for humans and pets. No tests show that children are especially sensitive to permethrin compared with adults. However, if your child is sensitive to other products, it is advisable to keep them away from areas where you use sprays, powders, or foggers to treat pests.

 **Call us at (978) 325-1325 today to schedule your mosquito pest control consultation and keep your family and pets safe!**

# **Resources**

## **Tips for Effective Mosquito Pest Control**

In addition to using organic or traditional mosquito pest control services, there are several things you can do to control mosquito populations on your property:

1. **Eliminate standing water:** Mosquitoes breed in standing water, so it's essential to eliminate any sources of stagnant water on your property, such as bird baths, clogged gutters, and puddles.
2. **Trim your landscaping:** Mosquitoes like to hide in tall grass and overgrown landscaping, so keeping your yard trimmed and tidy is essential.
3. **Use mosquito repellent:** If you're spending time outdoors, make sure to use mosquito repellent with natural ingredients like citronella or eucalyptus oil to ward off pests. Check for suitable repellants for your pets to keep them safe too.
4. **Wear protective clothing:** Mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors and warm bodies, so wearing light-colored, loose-fitting clothing can help reduce the chances of getting bitten. Also, cover up when you’re outdoors by wearing long sleeves and pants to reduce the chances of falling prey to these disease-carrying pests.

## **Tips for Organic Tick Management**

You can take back control of your environment from dangerous ticks by managing your environment with these tips:

* **Keep Your Yard Clean:** Ticks prefer tall grass and dense vegetation, so keep your lawn trimmed and free of debris.
* **Use Natural Tick Repellents:** Essential oils like lavender, peppermint, and eucalyptus can be used to repel ticks.
* **Wear Protective Clothing:** When going outside, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and closed-toe shoes to reduce your risk of tick bites.
* **Check for Ticks:** After spending time outdoors, check yourself, your children, and your pets for ticks. Be sure to check hard-to-see areas like the scalp, behind the ears, and underarms.