

THE 2017 TERMINIX ENTOMOLOGIST'S ALMANAC



The 2017 edition of the Entomologist's Almanac includes national data about pest searches and social media posts, which shows that people are frequently searching for information about pests online. The good news is, Terminix can offer solutions for homeowners' concerns.

2017 Pest of the Year: Bed Bugs

Terminix named **bed bugs** the 2017 pest of the year. The National Pest Management Association notes bed bug infestations have increased in the past three decades and are difficult to eliminate.

The pest of the year was determined by Terminix based on its research of the highest per capita online search volume of any pest this year. Americans searched for information about bed bugs more than 7.3 million times during 2017.

PEST	TOTAL U.S. SEARCH VOLUME, JAN-SEPT
Bed Bugs	7,394,580
Scorpion	2,528,460
Spider	2,199,150
Silverfish	1,884,870
Hornet	1,576,170
Cockroach	1,532,520
Centipede	1,393,020
Wasp	1,179,900
Earwig	1,005,570
Ticks	1,000,260

Terminix determined the pest of the year based on per capita search data for 52 common pests from Google search that took place January 2017 through September 2017. Per capita data is determined based on U.S. Census Bureau populations and advertiser data.

Top Pests by State

PEST	STATE
Mosquitoes	Virginia
Bed Bugs	Idaho
Flies	Nebraska
Spiders	Washington
Rats	Connecticut
Termites	Arizona
Cockroaches	Hawaii
Mice	DC
Ants	Oregon
Hornets	Massachusetts

Terminix dug into social media data to see which states have people buzzing, or tweeting, about common pests. Virginians outnumbered every other state in the country in social media posts about mosquitoes, while Idahoans post more about bed bugs than any other state in the union. And arachnophobes may want to avoid Washington state’s social media, as it leads the country in social posts about spiders.



Terminix determined social statistics using social listening software to determine the total number of posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter that include reference to one or more of 52 pests and variations of those terms on a per capita basis. Incidental references to pop culture figures, such as “Mickey Mouse,” have been removed for data set integrity.

Quick Pest Facts!



Mosquitoes¹

- The mosquito is a type of fly with a thin body, thin wings and long legs. The females are easily recognized by long, thin proboscis, or mouth parts, extending from the bottom front of the head.
- Only the female mosquito bites—male mosquitoes feed on the nectar in flowers.
- When a mosquito bites, she injects an anticoagulating agent into the skin to prevent the blood from clotting, thereby allowing her to feed. It is the body's immune response to the anticoagulant that causes the reddened welts and itching in some people.



Bed Bugs²

- Bed bugs are reddish-brown and about one-fourth of an inch in length.
- Bed bug bite wounds may show as generalized minor swelling or raised bumps that itch in some people.
- Bed bugs are not known to carry or transmit any human disease.



Flies³

- Flies are the fourth largest group of insects, consisting of more than 110,000 different species worldwide and are found in every part of the inhabited world, being most abundant in tropical and subtropical areas.
- Because flies primarily breed outdoors in manure, garbage and the carcasses of dead animals, they may carry bacteria into the home.
- Different types of flies require different strategies for fly control. Each fly type has its own habits and preferred living conditions. Fruit flies prefer ripened/rotting fruit or fresh garbage, while moth flies prefer drains. House flies primarily breed in fresh manure, while blow flies prefer dead animals or rotting garbage.

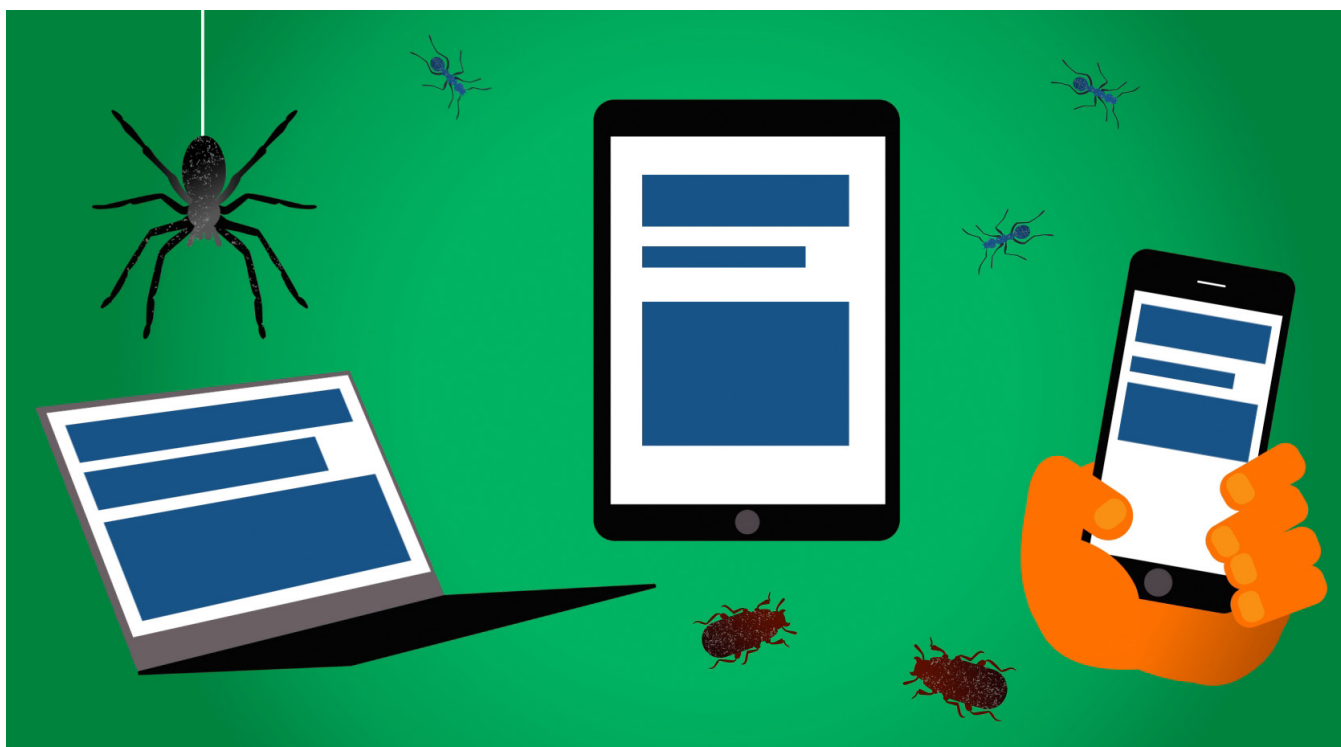


Spiders⁴

- Spiders are considered arthropods, and differ from insects in that they have two, rather than three, body regions. These two regions are the cephalothorax—which contains the eyes, mouth parts and legs—and the abdomen.
- Spiders have four pairs of legs, while insects have three pairs of legs. They possess modified appendages called pedipalps located in the front by the mouth, which in some species resemble an extra set of legs.
- Most spiders have eight simple eyes located on the front of the cephalothorax, but some spiders have fewer eyes. The arrangement of these eyes is often used to distinguish between various species of spiders.

¹ <https://www.terminix.com/pest-control/mosquitoes/overview/>
² <https://www.terminix.com/bed-bug-control/bed-bugs/>

³ <https://www.terminix.com/pest-control/flies/>
⁴ <https://www.terminix.com/pest-control/spiders/>



17 Pestiest States of 2017

Terminix has also named the top 17 pest-iest states of 2017, determined by analyzing per capita social media chatter about common pests in all 50 states. Among millions of posts analyzed, the highest rates of pest posts were concentrated in the District of Columbia, Texas and New York—but even states with cooler climates, such as Alaska, made their voices heard about pests that creep, buzz and crawl.

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RANKING	STATE/REGION
1	District of Columbia
2	Texas
3	New York
4	Virginia
5	California
6	Nevada
7	Arizona
8	Oregon
9	Georgia
10	Massachusetts
11	Florida
12	Nebraska
13	Hawaii
14	Washington
15	Alaska
16	Louisiana
17	Oklahoma