

When temperatures and precipitation levels drastically fluctuate, so can rodent and arachnid populations, including vector pests that can spread disease. These 10 cities experienced extreme weather this fall and winter, putting them on our watchlist for increased vector pest pressure this season.



Factor Key











Vector Pests 101



Ticks: The blacklegged tick is a vector of anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Lyme disease, while the American dog tick, Rocky Mountain wood tick and the brown dog tick are vectors of Rocky Mountain spotted fever.



Rodents: The house mouse and deer mice are vectors of Salmonella and hantavirus, respectively, while Norway rats and roof rats are also vectors of Salmonella, as well as plague, typhus, jaundice, rat-bite fever, cowpox virus and trichinosis.



Mosquitoes: Mosquitoes are vectors of numerous diseases including malaria, yellow fever, dengue, encephalitis, chikungunya, West Nile virus and Zika virus.



Cockroaches: Cockroaches can cause allergic reactions and trigger asthma attacks, especially in children. They also spread nearly 33 kinds of bacteria including E. coli and Salmonella.