

Winterize Your Home

This is the time of year for cool evenings we all love - dining on the patio, evening walks, etc. It is an interesting phenomenon that we like to enjoy these cool evenings and the rodents are opposite - they want to come inside for the warmth. Rodents will enter the attic and sub areas of buildings this time of year. We have some easy ideas to help you to be prepared for this. We call it winterizing your home. First, perform a thorough inspection of all doors, windows and the roof. If any space or openings are found plug them with steel wool before you place a cover. This will prevent anything from chewing to make an opening larger. If any light can be seen around bottom of door when closed, place a small piece of weather strip to bottom of door to create a tighter seal. Any openings on a roof are an invitation to a rodent. They need to be covered or sealed. If you would like an inspection please call or advise your technician.

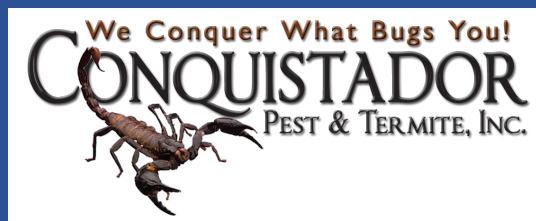
Oh Rats!

What a year 2009 has been! I just want to express my gratitude for your continued patronage. We take very seriously the level of trust and confidence you place in Conquistador. Because of that trust, we train and educate our technicians on a regular and continuing basis. Each week the technicians take an online course to improve their knowledge of pests and control methods. We have a monthly training class with a board certified entomologist to keep us up to speed on all the latest materials and techniques. All this we do to provide our clients with the "Ultimate Level of Service". We believe we offer a valuable service to you and your family and this service assists you in providing a safer atmosphere in your home. Because the home is considered to be the most sacred of places we perform background checks, drug tests and driving record tests annually. I want to ensure I have only the highest qualified

people entering your home or business. With the extensive training and safety measures we employ, Conquistador stands above other pest control companies. We love Tucson and enjoy serving you and your family. We look forward to the future and tackling any challenges that the bug world may throw our way. We will continue to invest in education and safety to provide you, our client, with the "Ultimate Level of Service". Thanks again!
Go Cats!

Ken Fredrick

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Two Types of Pack Rat Human and Rodent

Pack rates come in two varieties – two legged and four legged. The two legged variety is very common and is found all over the country and beyond. This human species of pack rat looks and acts like other human beings with the exception that they are compulsive collectors.

Now the four legged rodent species of pack rat is confined to specific areas in the Southwestern United States. It is basically a desert dweller and, like its human counterpart, likes to collect things. Pack rats, by nature, are not criminals. They don't steal intentionally. They are collectors by nature and, when they see something they like they take it. In the same manner, if they see a parked car with a still warm engine on a cold winter's night, they are not adverse to crawling up under the hood and warming themselves. An additional attraction of a car's engine compartment is that while it is easily accessible to a pack rat it is not easily accessible to predators such as bobcats, coyotes, owls and snakes. If the car is returned to the same spot every night, well they can't resist bringing the family and building a nest under the hood. Being nocturnal creatures, they don't sleep much at night so, after dinner they like to kick back, relax and, being rodents, have a good chew. What better thing to

chew on than the nearby engine wiring – firm but pliable and obviously, to a pack rat at least, tasty.

Pack Rats camping out under the hoods

of people's cars is a problem in the Southwest, because they not only cause expensive damage to cars, once they establish themselves in a car it is very difficult to get rid of them. When pack rat families build nests and move in under the hood of a car, the odor from their feces and urine lingers even after the nests are discovered, destroyed and the rats chased out. While not very noticeable to humans, this odor is easily detectable by other pack rats thereby advertising that car as a good place in which to settle in a raise a family.

In this instance, a good defense is definitely a good offense. Ask your Conquistador technician about setting out bait boxes or, if you prefer, live traps that will help deter these cute but destructive critters from setting up camp on your property.



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