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# Insect tips

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## Mud Daubers

Mud daubers are throughout the United States. These wasps create mud tubes in which their young develop. You will find these nests on the sides of your home. They like to construct these nests between brick in the mortar joint, where wood trim fascia boards, and molding meet around window and door frames. Though they all seem to be the same type of nest, each species has distinct characteristics associated with design patterns of the mud. Regardless of the way these nests are constructed, mud daubers frighten many people and have been mistaken for termites on too many occasions.

Most daubers feed on spiders. Females seek out spiders, sting them and deposit their bodies in the back of a larva cell of their nest. An egg is then laid on the spider for the young to feed. A female will typically have several eggs in a single "pipe" and will have 3-6 pipes per nest. If conditions allow, she may have more than one nest. Nests appear to be on homes which are stucco, brick or other porous rough surfaces. It is both easier to build nests on such surfaces as well as the fact that nests seem to hold better once constructed on them.

Though colorful and sometimes bright in color, mud daubers are not as likely to sting as others. It does have a stinger which is used for its food but generally will not use it unless provoked. Their bodies are somewhat frail compared to other wasps yet are



wizards at using mud and carrying it around to construct their nests. If your house is serving as the local mud dauber neighborhood, there is a simple way to control them. Our treatments will take care of pests in a matter of minutes.

## Bug-Proofing 101



**Damp weather is on the way...** which means it is time to "bug-proof" your house. In reality it would be impossible to make your home completely insect free, but there are some modifications you can make to your home environment to limit pest entry into your home.

**Check your doors** - Make sure that the door is flush with your floor. Many occasional invaders will sense the different air currents leaving your home, and be attracted to warmer temperatures and smells found inside. By adding some weather stripping to the bottom of your front door, you can make the door flush with the ground, thus limiting pest entry.

## Q&A

**Q:** Do bug zappers really work?

**A:** Bug zappers emit UV light which is highly attractive to insects. Sure, a bug zapper will kill some bugs, but it will bring in more bugs than it kills. Don't waste your money.

**Check your screen windows** - Where possible make sure that all windows have a screen to prevent entry from insect pests. This is especially important if you live near any bodies of water. Insects that are attracted to lights around your home will enter through open windows. Check to make sure the screens do not have any holes that would allow insects to enter your home.

**Change the outside lights** - Insects guide their migration and flight patterns by orienting themselves to the moon. However, in urban environments the moon takes a different form, as your porch lights or house lights. As insects are flying around your home, they think your porch light is the moon and fly towards your home, collecting around the front door and other well-lit areas. There are numerous yellow-tinted "Bug-Free" lights that you can purchase at hardware stores. These lights are not as attractive to insects and will limit the amount of insects that rest near your front door.