Winterize your home to prevent fall invaders

Source: Ray Tackett, UK extension horticulture agent

The days are getting shorter, the nights cooler, and if you notice some clustering on the outside of your home, it could be insects trying to get inside. The Asian lady beetle is always a problem this time of year, some years worse than others. Other fall invaders may include face flies, spiders and stink bugs. If you live near lakes, rivers and creeks, you may see boxelder bugs, a red and black insect. Once inside, these insects usually don’t increase in numbers because they are accidental invaders and also harmless.

Insects are usually no threat, mainly just a nuisance. Although stink bugs can exude a substance that doesn’t smell pleasant. If you vacuum stink bugs from windows sills, or wherever they are, you might want to throw away the vacuum bag because of the odor. Lady bugs and stink bugs can also leave a stain if you smash them, which is why we recommend vacuuming them.

Exclusion is considered the best way to keep insects out of your home, because there are more control options available on the outside. Pest-proofing your home as much as possible will help keep insects out. Caulking, inspecting screens and windowsills, checking where utilities come into the home are ways to winterize your home.

Contact (YOUR COUNTY) office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service for recommendations on ways to pest-proof your home.

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