

PEST CONTROL BULLETIN NO. 19

HOUSE HOPPERS



GENERAL INFORMATION

House hoppers (*Talitroides sylvaticus*) are small (8mm) shrimp-like crustaceans that frequently invade homes in coastal areas of Orange County. Residential infestations are more sporadic inland and usually limited to homes adjoining canyons and flood channels. As their name implies, house hoppers move about by the spring action of their three pairs of hind legs. Because house hoppers are flattened laterally, they also are able to enter homes through the gaps in the thresholds of entry, patio and garage doors. Interestingly, house hoppers frequently invade homes to seek moisture. They invariably die shortly after entering a dwelling due to the lack of moisture (humidity) and starvation. Live specimens are brown with a green-grey sheen and will turn orange within a day or two after death. House hoppers will on rare occasions enter ornamental ponds and swimming pools in large numbers only to drown when they cannot escape from the water surface.

Outdoors, house hoppers inhabit ground cover landscape vegetation (ivy, ice plant, honeysuckle, etc.) where they feed predominately on decaying plant and animal matter in close contact with damp soil. House hoppers also will frequently congregate beneath wood piles, stationary trash cans, flower pots, and stepping stones.

CONTROL

House hoppers are not known to cause damage to vegetation or bite pets and humans. Their presence is more a nuisance and transient distraction to homeowners. Controlling hoppers can be accomplished by applications of commercially available pesticides, sealing the

thresholds of access doors, and stacking all wood and lumber above ground.

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This information is provided to help homeowners with their pest problems. Insecticides may be purchased at nurseries, hardware, farm supply, and pet stores. If additional help is needed, contact with a licensed pest control operator is suggested.

No endorsement of trade names or products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Handle insecticides with care and follow instructions on the label.
2. Do not use around open flame or exposed foods, and always clean food preparation areas after the use of pesticides.
3. Store out of reach of children and pets, preferably in locked cabinets.
4. Never keep pesticides in anything other than the original container.
5. Never reuse the pesticide container to store any other materials.
6. Dispose of all empty containers by placing them in the trash can for removal to the local disposal area.



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