

The Ultimate South Sound Homeowner 's Guide to Winter Pests (2025 Edition)

By Bigfoot Pest Management — Serving Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, Yelm & DuPont, WA

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Why Winter Is Prime Time for Pest Problems in Western Washington

When the temperature drops and the rain rolls in, pests across the South Sound start looking for one thing: a warm, dry place to spend the winter. Unfortunately, that often means your home. Here in Thurston and Pierce counties, the combination of damp weather and older crawlspaces makes homes ideal shelters for rodents, spiders, ants, and more. Our technicians see rodent calls jump by nearly 40% between November and February, and most infestations start in attics or crawlspaces that go unchecked during colder months.

The 5 Most Common Winter Pests in the South Sound

- **Rodents (Rats & Mice):** Chew through insulation, wiring, and even plumbing lines to nest in crawlspaces, attics, and garages. Seal gaps larger than ¼ inch and check that vent screens are secure.
- **Spiders:** Move inside looking for food, especially giant house spiders and hobo spiders. Seal small cracks and maintain regular pest control to reduce populations.
- **Ants:** Moisture-loving ants find their way indoors during winter. Wipe down counters and fix leaks to discourage colonies.
- **Silverfish:** These bugs love humidity and darkness, making bathrooms and attics their favorite hangouts. Use dehumidifiers and avoid cardboard storage.
- **Cluster Flies:** Sneak into attics and wall voids in fall and overwinter until spring. Vacuum visible flies and call for professional treatment.

Crawlspace & Attic Checklist for Winter Pest Prevention

- Inspect insulation for signs of nesting or damage
- Seal vent screens and foundation openings
- Remove clutter and cardboard from storage areas
- Check for gaps under garage and entry doors
- Trim vegetation away from siding and rooflines

- Schedule a crawlspace inspection before temperatures drop

Local Pest Hotspots Around the South Sound

Over the past few winters, our team has seen the highest rodent activity in: - West Olympia & Tumwater – older neighborhoods with easy attic access - Lacey – homes near greenbelts and wetlands - Yelm & DuPont – new construction near open fields create perfect nesting zones.

When to Call a Professional

If you ' ve spotted signs of pests, don ' t wait it out—infestations grow fast during the cold months. Bigfoot Pest Management provides full inspections and customized treatment plans for homes and businesses throughout Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, Yelm, and DuPont, WA.

Call (360) 789-5295 or visit www.bigfootpest.com to schedule your free inspection today!