

What does being “green” really mean?

Today, many people seek companies who are “green” or have green practices. But what does “green” really mean? A green company is one that is committed to incorporating environmentally responsible practices into their business. Increasingly, homeowners are seeking services by companies with green practices, including pest control; however, there is a wide spread misconception as to what this actually entails.

As it relates to pest control, the 5 W’s and How are important—who, what, when, where, how and why.

The WHO. So as not to kill a broad spectrum of insects, it is important to identify the target pest and keep this in consideration when deciding on the specifics of the service. Different types of pests require different types of applications.

The WHAT. Knowing the type of pesticide needed, the correct amount and the formulation to eradicate the target pest is vital to the success of the pest control service. Many consumers who want to be green look for natural products; natural doesn’t mean harmless. Sometimes homeowners can cause more harm than good by using essential oils for their pest control needs. While some essential oils have a pleasant aroma, one must be cautious not to over apply or use in enclosed areas due to potential respiratory irritation. Essential oils are not being tested like all other products before they are approved as a pesticide. Currently the most effective products used for pest control come from the chrysanthemum plant with a very low toxicity rating. Synthetic pyrethroids are manmade copies of pyrethrum which comes from the chrysanthemum plant and is like copying nature; however, it will last longer. Other green pesticides are acceptable, but because of their short residual, will require more applications and in turn, will increase the annual cost for pest control.

The WHEN. It is crucial to identify the target pest in order to formulate a plan for control, when to treat, trap or exclude. Depending on the situation no treatment may be necessary while at another time or with greater pest pressure treatment may be necessary.

The WHERE. In addition to knowing what kind of pesticide is needed knowing where the pest likes to harbor is essential in knowing where to treat. For many common household pests, the best means of eradication is applying pesticides on the exterior of the house or closing off openings into the structure—keeping the pests from entering in the first place. Some pests including spiders, bed bugs, fire ants and others require a direct contact and or other application techniques.

The HOW. Closing entry points and minimizing harborage areas near the structure is an important part of IPM “Integrated Pest Management.” Properly applying the pesticide, preventing harm to the local environment, pets, humans, fish, birds and other wildlife, will not only yield the greatest success, but more importantly, will provide the greenest practices and least environmental impact.

The WHY. Understanding all of the above will aid a homeowner when looking for a green pest control company.

Additionally, a homeowner should also consider a company's everyday business practices. The utilization of technology to reduce the amount of paper used, recycling yard signs and sign wires, and integrated pest management—the practice of inspection and documentation, using fewer products to protect your family and home all impact the overall green factor of a company.

When looking for a green pest company, be sure to know what being “green” really means.

Skyline Pest Solutions is an environmentally responsible, full service pest control company offering pest and termite solutions, mosquito reduction services, wildlife removal and exclusions and insulation services. With five offices to serve all of the metro Atlanta area, our goal to keep your home pest free. Contact us at 770-844-6440, info@skylinepest.com or visit us at www.skylinepest.com.