Keeping pests out of your home this fall, from stink bugs to mice

Links:
- Scientific Coalition on Pest Exclusion: [www.pestexclusion.org/](http://www.pestexclusion.org/)
- Mouse Entry Point Video: [https://youtu.be/HFk2jsGyysM](https://youtu.be/HFk2jsGyysM)
- Exterior Inspection Instructions: [https://nysipm.cornell.edu/sites/nysipm.cornell.edu/files/shared/Ext%20Inspection%20Instruction.pdf](https://nysipm.cornell.edu/sites/nysipm.cornell.edu/files/shared/Ext%20Inspection%20Instruction.pdf)
- What’s Bugging You Fall Invaders: [https://nysipm.cornell.edu/whats-bugging-you/fall-intruders/](https://nysipm.cornell.edu/whats-bugging-you/fall-intruders/)

Questions:

Q: Any suggestions for keeping insects from creeping in via board and batten siding?
A: For board and batten siding, solutions include sealing gaps between sheets of siding (labor intensive and may not be 100% effective because materials expand and shrink with heat and cold). Alternatively, foam insulation in walls might create a better barrier against insects. Finally, sealing gaps between interior building materials could prevent them from entering the structure. For example, painters caulk at seams.

Q: Can mice come through wooden walls? Are cement block or brick building materials better??
A: Rodents can actually chew through all of those products, but certainly harder materials are more difficult for mice to chew. One measure for the hardness of an item is the Mohs Scale of mineral hardness, and rat teeth are rated as a 5.5 – harder than iron, platinum and copper. The challenge with keeping rats out is to make sure there are no edges of the material that they can pull and slowly chew.

Fruit flies - don't bother me!

Links:
- What’s Bugging You Non-Biting Flies: [https://nysipm.cornell.edu/whats-bugging-you/flies-non-biting/](https://nysipm.cornell.edu/whats-bugging-you/flies-non-biting/)
- NYSIPM Flickr Gallery: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/99758165@N06/sets/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/99758165@N06/sets/)

Questions:

Q: Any suggestions for controlling house flies?