

## Olympia pest company certified eco-friendly

Eden Advanced Pest Technologies one of 7 in nation

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The Olympian

OLYMPIA — Add pest-control companies to the list of businesses that have a third-party certification process for environmentally friendly products and pest-control practices.

The program is called Green Shield Certified, and Eden Advanced Pest Technologies of Olympia is one of seven pest-control companies nationwide to qualify for the eco-friendly seal of approval.

Company owner Jack Marlowe said about 5 percent of his customers are on board with the Green Shield program, which went national this fall. However, he said, his 20-year-old company has been offering pest control with the use of pesticides as a last resort for several years.

Among the "green" customers is Marisa Foley, an Olympia owner of a 100-year-old, short-term-rental mansion on East Bay Drive.

"A lot of our guests are against the use of pesticides, and I don't want chemicals on my property," Foley, the mother of two young children, said during an inspection of the home's exterior this week by Marlowe and Eden employee Jerry Hogard.

Green Shield Certified takes advantage of pest-control technique called Integrated Pest Management.

IPM techniques include properly sealing cracks and crevices to keep pests out of schools, offices and homes, eliminating places where pests hide and fixing leaky plumbing to cut off sources of water for pests. In other words, look for long-term solutions that get rid of pests without needing to reach for a gas mask to do it.

If a pest has gained a foothold in a building, the first attack is to use physical or mechanical means to eliminate it, such as trapping or vacuuming, Marlowe said.

And if that doesn't work, Eden can turn to an array of nonchemical materials to combat pests. For example: a concoction of rosemary oil, wintergreen, peppermint and vanilla will repel ants.

Having trouble with spiders? A nonodorous mix of vinegar and licorice extract applied to a surface will drive off spiders and keep them from weaving a web for up to 60 days, Hogard said.

For green pest control to catch on, it has to work and it can't be overpriced, Marlowe said.

"When push comes to shove, most people just want the pest to go away," Marlowe said.

Spray-by-the-calendar pesticide applications are not allowed under the Green Shield Certified program.

"Green Shield Certified is the next generation of pest-control service," said Jonathan Kaplan, a senior policy specialist for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "These certified companies are proving that knowledge and prevention can provide more effective, long-lasting pest control than heavy-handed chemical sprays."

South Sound is no stranger to Integrated Pest Management. Thurston County adopted an IPM program 15 years ago. The North Thurston, Tumwater and Olympia school districts, as well as the City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department, are among the others that have followed suit in recent years.



Using a soft duster, Jerry Hogard of Eden Advanced Pest Technologies removes dust and the occasional spiderweb during a routine inspection of an East Bay Drive home that has moved toward environmentally friendly pest control. (Steve Bloom/The Olympian)

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Web site of the week

To learn more about Green Shield Certified, an independent, nonprofit certification program that promotes environmentally friendly pest control, go to [www.greenshieldcertified.org](http://www.greenshieldcertified.org).

More information about the first South Sound company to join the program is at [www.edenpest.com](http://www.edenpest.com).

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