



Pestco's **X-TermiGreen** Service

Pestco's X-TermiGreen Service Achieves Green Shield Certification

Pittsburgh-based Pestco has achieved Green Shield Certification for its *X-TermiGreen* service. It is now the second pest management provider in Pennsylvania and the twenty-eighth in the nation to offer a Green Shield Certified service, known for its green approach to pest management. Managers of commercial facilities in western Pennsylvania now have the option of choosing this newly certified service, ensuring less exposure to pesticides for their residents, clients, patients and pupils. Facilities that are looking to become LEED certified or improve their LEED status can be assured that this certified service will meet the needed criteria.

Pestco was founded in 1948 by the Zlotnik family, and has remained in the family ever since. Initially a manufacturing company, Pestco pioneered the first battery-operated air freshener before moving into complete facility care (including pest management) in the early 1960s. Determined to keep Pestco on the cutting edge, President Arnold Zlotnik introduced advanced Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques to the company in the early 1990s.

Jeffrey Petti, General Manager of Pestco Professional Services, recalls with satisfaction an occasion when IPM was used to resolve a particularly tricky situation. Water damage from an unknown source was causing a persistent infestation. "Pest management got together with structural folks and we got to the underlying cause—some broken pipes in a steam tunnel underneath the facility," Petti explained. "We did an extensive inspection, isolated specific areas of sightings, narrowed down where the underlying problem was coming from and got construction people involved to make the necessary repairs. That solved the problem."

The collaborative strategies of IPM were met with such resounding success that the company decided to once again take their pest management division to the cutting edge of the industry: green. Pestco's new Green Shield Certified *X-TermiGreen* service focuses on prevention. Least toxic pesticides are used only as a last resort, and only in ways that greatly reduce potential exposure.

The company has even enlisted the help of some unconventional new partners in their operation—bedbug sniffing dogs. Armed with canine noses, Pestco is able to identify

and target specific areas for treatment and can verify afterwards the absence of viable eggs and living bedbugs. This low-impact treatment has been particularly useful in sensitive environments such as hospitals and nursing homes.

“IPM works best as a partnership between the service provider and the client,” according to Dr. Thomas Green, president of the non-profit IPM Institute of North America. “Your pest control provider should be a highly trained diagnostician who can determine why the problem is occurring, and come up with a practical solution to solve the problem permanently. Pestco’s *X-TermiGreen* service meets that standard.”

Green Shield Certified is an independent, non-profit certification program that promotes practitioners of effective, prevention-based pest control while minimizing the need to use pesticides. Green Shield Certified is operated by the IPM Institute of North America, a non-profit organization recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its expertise and accomplishments in promoting integrated pest management.