



Smithereen Pest Management's **SMITHEREEN'S GREEN SHIELD CERTIFIED SERVICE**

Chicago-based Pest Management Provider Achieves Certification from the IPM Institute of North America for its "Smithereen's Green Shield Certified Service"

[Smithereen Pest Management](#) was recognized by the IPM Institute of North America for its new "Smithereen's Green Shield Certified Service," a service that provides affordable, effective pest control with a minimum of pesticide use. Smithereen is the first Illinois-based company to offer a Green Shield Certified service and the twenty-third in the nation. Residential and commercial customers in the Chicagoland metro area looking for a preventative approach to pest management can now choose to utilize "Smithereen's Green Shield Certified Service."

Smithereen's history began in the late 19th century with E.R. Jennings, one of the first professional exterminators, and has evolved into a more environmentally conscious company as new techniques have come to light. The company launched its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in writing in 1994. In 1996, the company made vacuums standard equipment and ceased purchasing organophosphate and carbamate pesticides. The choice to discontinue use of products that could result in cholinergic syndrome came years before the Environmental Protection Agency took action to eliminate their use.

Low-impact treatments are a last resort, as the company utilizes advanced IPM to exclude pests. IPM not only provides for further safety and security— to Smithereen, it additionally allows for a wide variety of sustainable solutions and partnerships. The preventative approach tackles problems through innovation and collaboration. IPM has been hailed by academics and professionals alike as a truly functional partnership with a minimum of pesticide use.

The current president of the company, Richard Jennings, has worked at Smithereen since he was 13, when he began his career assisting service technicians. In 1968, Jennings became the third generation of the family to lead the company. Loyola University recognized Smithereen Pest Management in 2007 as Family Business of the year, a prestigious award designed to demonstrate strong commitments to community as well as good business practices. Members of the company have reached out to schools, educating culinary students and building engineers, to inform the public about IPM techniques. Vice-President of Operations, David Harris-John, has been lauded by the EPA for his work in bringing IPM methods to Illinois schools.

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A number of factors have contributed to the pursuit of Integrated Pest Management at Smithereen. Company leaders have long recognized the techniques as the forefront of pest management technology. Early on, Smithereen found that chemical solutions were not nearly as effective, and definitively unsustainable without IPM. Since then, they have dedicated themselves to IPM techniques, reflected in rigorous training for technicians that thoroughly prepares them for the analytic methods that are necessary for effective IPM. The company, according to Sara Kantarovich, Smithereen's Technical Director and Corporate Training Manager, "strives to provide service that incorporates all aspects of management including documentation, communication, education, mechanical, and if necessary chemical."

Smithereen places a priority on one of the pillars of IPM: exclusion. "All of our programs involve documented recommendations for all sanitary and mechanical solutions that can lead to long term solutions rather than quick fixes," explained Kantarovich. When dealing with an outdoor rat problem around a mall, the company used a new landscaping material to rodent proof the area, bringing the rat burrow count down from over 130 to one or two. The company also works to minimize potential risk by offering Thermal Remediation, a procedure that uses heat to exterminate bed bugs, rather than utilizing chemical treatments.

"Green Shield Certified is focused on the advanced practice of Integrated Pest Management, an approach that solves the cause of the problem, rather than applying short-lived fixes," said Dr. Thomas Green, president of the IPM Institute of North America. "Both home and business owners need a way to identify companies and services that truly provide the highest level of IPM service, and Smithereen Pest Management 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.