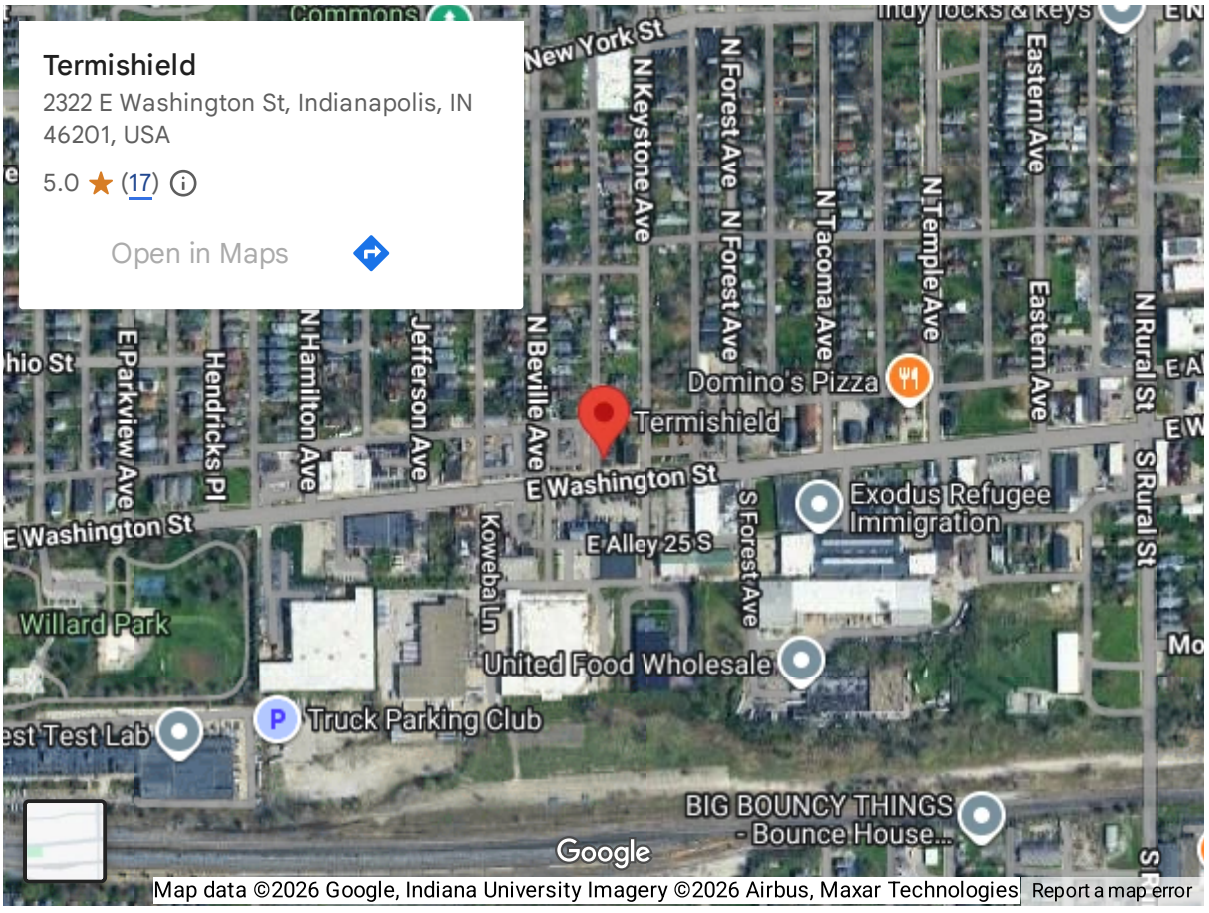
Summer Cookout Season: Keeping Indianapolis Backyards Pest-Free

From Memorial Day weekend, when the whole city seems to celebrate the Indianapolis 500, through to Labor Day, Indianapolis backyards are busy. Cookouts, graduation parties, birthday gatherings and long evenings on the patio are a big part of summer life. Unfortunately, they also coincide with peak season for the pests most likely to ruin an outdoor event.Stinging insects are the biggest concern. Yellowjackets are drawn to sweet drinks, fruit and meat, and colonies grow larger and more aggressive as summer goes on. A nest hidden in a wall void, under a deck or in the ground near a play area can turn a party into a trip to urgent care, especially for anyone with a sting allergy. Paper wasps build under eaves, porch ceilings and railings, often right where guests gather.Mosquitoes are the other major nuisance. Indianapolis summers are humid, and the city's creeks, ponds and drainage areas, along with forgotten buckets and clogged gutters, provide plenty of breeding sites. Mosquitoes are most active around dusk, just when many cookouts are in full swing. In Indiana, they can also carry West Nile virus.A few weeks before a big event is the ideal time to call for pest control. Termishield's technicians inspect the yard, eaves, decks, fences and play areas for stinging insect nests and remove them safely. Homeowners on the Shield Premier plan have stinging insect removal included. For mosquitoes, seasonal treatment targets breeding areas and the shady Pest control vegetation where adult mosquitoes rest, with eco-friendly options available.Ants are worth thinking about too. Pavement ants and other species quickly find food left on patio tables, and a busy ant trail across the deck is not a welcome sight. Quarterly exterior service through Shield Advantage or Shield Premier keeps the perimeter of the home protected through the summer.On the day itself, a few simple steps help. Keep food covered, serve drinks in cups with lids, empty trash bags regularly and keep garbage bins closed and away from seating areas. Tip out standing water in the days before the event.Whether you are hosting a graduation party in Beech Grove, a birthday in Irvington or a race weekend cookout near the Westside, Termishield's Indianapolis team can help get your yard ready. Call the office at 2322 E Washington St to arrange a free inspection.Termishield | 2322 E Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46201 | (317) 827-0166

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Termishield provides pest control in Indianapolis from its office on East Washington Street, with free inspections, quarterly

Shield Advantage and Shield Premier plans, and specialty treatment for termites, bed bugs, cockroaches, rodents, stinging insects, mosquitoes and wildlife. Locally owned and family operated since 2007. Indiana license F35923. Pest Control in Indianapolis: Frequently Asked Questions How much will it cost for pest control? Pest control cost in Indianapolis depends on the pest, how widespread the activity is, the size and construction of the property and whether you choose a one-time treatment or ongoing service. Specialty pests such as termites, bed bugs and heavy rodent activity take more time and follow up than general household pests. Termishield gives a property-specific estimate after a free inspection, so you know the scope and price before any treatment begins. Is $70 a month good for pest control? A monthly figure on its own does not tell you much. Compare what is included: how many pests are covered, how often a technician visits, whether interior treatment is part of the plan and whether re-treatments between visits are free. Termishield's Shield Advantage and Shield Premier plans spread quarterly service into monthly convenience payments and include free re-treatments if covered pests return between visits. Ask for the scope in writing before you sign up with any company. How much does it cost to have an exterminator come out? Many companies charge for an initial visit, but Termishield's inspections in Indianapolis are free. A technician checks the inside and outside of the property, confirms which pests are active and how they are getting in, then explains the recommended treatment and price. You decide whether to go ahead once you have that information. Which is the hardest pest to get rid of? Bed bugs, German cockroaches and termites are usually the hardest. Bed bugs hide in tiny cracks and resist many store-bought products, German cockroaches breed fast and travel between apartments, and termites stay hidden inside wood and soil for years. All three need a thorough professional plan with follow up rather than a single spray. Will an exterminator get rid of roaches? Yes, in most cases, provided the treatment reaches where the roaches live and breed. Effective cockroach control uses gel baits, crack and crevice treatment and growth regulators behind appliances, under sinks and inside cabinets, followed by a return visit to catch newly hatched roaches. In apartment buildings and doubles, treating every connected unit gives the best result. What is the best pest control treatment for bed bugs? The most reliable approach is a professional, multi-step plan: a thorough inspection to confirm activity and map its spread, targeted treatment of beds, furniture, baseboards and other hiding places, and follow up visits to catch bugs hatching from eggs. Good preparation, such as laundering bedding on high heat and reducing clutter, is a big part of success. Foggers and store sprays rarely reach where bed bugs hide. How to spot bed bugs? Check mattress seams, box springs, bed frames and headboards for small rusty or dark spots, pale shed skins, tiny white eggs and the bugs themselves, which are flat, reddish-brown and about the size of an apple seed. Itchy bites in a line or cluster after sleeping can be another clue. If you find signs, avoid moving items to other rooms and book an inspection. What to do if you slept in a bed with bed bugs? Wash the bites with soap and water and avoid scratching them; speak to a pharmacist or doctor if they become infected or you have a strong reaction. Wash the bedding and the clothes you slept in on high heat, bag items before moving them and inspect your luggage if you were traveling. If the bed was in your own home, arrange a professional inspection quickly before the bugs spread to other rooms. How to deter rodents in a house? Take away food, shelter and access. Store dry food and pet food in sealed containers, clear clutter from basements and garages, keep firewood away from exterior walls and trim plants touching the house. Most important of all, seal gaps around pipes, vents, garage doors and foundations, since a mouse can fit through an opening about the width of a pencil. Professional rodent exclusion does this thoroughly. How much do companies charge to get rid of rats? Rat control pricing depends on how many rats are present, where they are nesting and how much exclusion work is needed to seal entry points. Rats are warier than mice and often take longer to remove, so most jobs involve more than one visit. Termishield inspects first and provides a property-specific estimate covering removal and sealing, so the problem does not return. What are the five main methods of pest control? Professional pest control usually combines inspection and monitoring, exclusion (sealing entry points), sanitation and habitat changes such as fixing leaks and removing clutter, mechanical methods such as traps, and targeted product applications such as baits and perimeter treatments. Using them together, often called integrated pest management, controls pests while keeping product use to what is actually needed. How often should pest control be done? Most homes benefit from quarterly service, which lines treatment up with the

seasonal changes in pest activity across central Indiana. Homes with recurring infestations, older construction or heavy outdoor pressure may need extra visits until the problem is under control, while some isolated issues only need a single treatment. A free inspection is the best way to decide.