Stink Bug Trap: DIY Trap Catches 100s Of Stink Bugs A Night!

Categories: DIY, General

Stink bug traps are perhaps the easiest and most environmentally-friendly way to eradicate these insects. Although there are literally hundreds of pre-made stink bug traps, these are often expensive and cumbersome. So what's a homeowner to do if they wish to eliminate stink bugs without spending a hefty sum of money? The answer is simple: make a homemade stink bug trap.

The video below gives you a clear tutorial on how to make this powerful stink bug trap; however, continue reading to uncover the necessary materials and instructions.

**Stink Bug Trap Materials**

To make a homemade stink bug trap, you'll need to gather the following items:

1. A 2-Litre Soda Bottle
Stink Bug Trap | Step-by-Step Instructions

Step One | With the razor blade, cut off the soda bottle just above the label, which is typically 1/3 of the top portion.

Step Two | Wrap the lower portion of the bottle with black electrical tape. This helps focus the light beam for maximum effectiveness.

Step Three | Put the LED light at the bottom of the bottle.

Step Four | Put the freshly removed top portion of the bottle upside down into the bottom portion of the bottle to create a funnel. (See Video for Visual Description)

Step Five | Add 4 strips of masking tape from the bottom to the top of the bottle so the stink bugs have a rough surface to climb. However, do not place the tape on the interior portion of the bottle as you don’t want these critters climbing out of the trap.

Step Six | With a pen or stick, press down on the LED light to turn it on.

Step Seven | Place the stink bug trap in a dark room at night, and in the morning review your collection.

There you have it! This is perhaps the easiest - and most effective - stink bug trap.

DIY Stink Bug Trap Video Tutorial

Prevention is Better than Elimination

Establishing a stink bug trap is essential to catch bugs that are in your home; however, prevention is a key player in overall elimination. According to many pest experts, exclusion is the most important method to keeping stink bugs at bay. Review your home to look for cracks in doors, windows and siding. Make sure to repair damaged screens on windows or doors and seal all unintended openings with a high-grade silicone caulk.
While many pest control companies recommend using pesticides to help control stink bugs, this is not the wisest choice. Although these chemicals can help deter stink bugs from entering your home, should they already exist, insecticidal products can kill stink bugs but then only provide other pests, such as carpet beetles, with a food source. Therefore, these harmful chemicals not only enhance the likelihood of a secondary infestation, but also cause extreme harm to the environment.

The most effective way to eliminate these pests from your home is through a stink bug trap.

**What Are Stink Bugs?**

Regardless of where you live or what your climate is like, there's an infestation coming your way - stink bugs, or brown marmorated stink bugs to be exact.

These creatures are not only determined to find their way into your home, but as its name suggests, they stink! Let's take a few moments and learn more about these odorous bugs.

Before building a stink bug trap, it's important to know what exactly is a stink bug? In the most fundamental sense, stink bugs are a member of the Pentatomidae insect family and feature a large, oval (or shield) shape. Its average length is 17 mm and adults typically feature varying shades of brown on both the lower and upper portions of their body. Due to its shield shape, stink bugs feature nearly the same width as its length.

To identify a stink bug, lighter shades of brown form bands around the antennae while darker shades of brown are location on its membranous, as you look toward the rear of their front wings, these two bands seem to overlap. On the head and pronotum of the stink bug, copper or blue-metallic coloration is typically found.

As you may already be well-aware, its name is derived from the odor produced from its abdomen and along the underside of its thorax. This odor is the result of a chemical reactions scientists believe is a defensive mechanism. Upon first glance, you may not immediately smell its odor; however, should the bug become startled or feel as if it's in danger, it will release its strong odor, which can quickly fill a room.

Unlike many other insects found throughout the region, scientists are not sure which seasons are "prime" seasons for the stink bug. However, during fall and winter months, stink bugs seem to gravitate toward the warmth of a home. This is evident during nighttime when they are drawn to the heat emitted from lights, computer screens and televisions.

**Damage Caused by Stink Bugs**

While stink bugs are annoying should they enter your home, they also pose a serious threat to agriculture; both small and large. Stink bugs feed on a wide array of plants; however, they seem to
be drawn specifically to fruits, such as peaches, apples, citrus fruits and mulberries. They are also prone to feed on weeds, soybeans, ornamental plants and other human food sources.

Although stink bugs are not a serious threat to humans, some people can develop an allergic reaction to the chemicals found within their odor, which means stink bugs have an aeroallergen tendency. It's important to note that individuals who crush or smash stink bugs with bare skin may develop an allergic reaction within their skin, because of this, it’s not advised to crush stink bugs, but rather use a stink bug trap. Also, should you crush this stinky creature, its glands produce a vast amount of the odorous chemical, which can be quite unpleasant, to say the least.

Be sure to check out our related posts: 6 Mosquito Repellent Plants To Grow and Deter Spiders With Vinegar & Peppermint Oil

(Image from: Wikipedia)