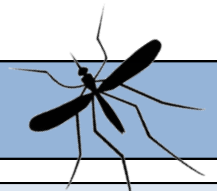




Hiring a pest control company



1. **Is the company licensed?** NJ state law requires any business that applies pesticides be licensed as a **Pesticide Applicator Business**. As part of the application process they must show proof of liability insurance. In addition, employees who will be applying the pesticide should each carry a **Commercial Pesticide Applicator** license on their person.

2. **Is the company knowledgeable?** Before doing any treatment they should conduct a survey of the premises to determine the cause/extent of the problem. They should also provide you with a treatment plan, including:

- What pesticide(s) they plan to apply, and the **Active Ingredients**. Are they aware of any **Least Toxic Alternatives**?
- When and where it will be applied– does their plan reflect specific knowledge about the biology of the pest? Will multiple treatments be necessary?
- How to limit your exposure to the pesticide

How to check pesticide licenses:

1. [Visit the NJDEP website and search their Data Miner portal](#) by Business Name, License#, or Type of Pest Control Performed.
2. Alternatively, ask for their license number and call 609-984-6507 (NJDEP Pesticide Control Program) to verify.

Recommended: Use the information they provide to do your own research. Look up the product online or call the National Pesticide Information Center hotline (1-800-858-7378; <http://npic.orst.edu>)

3. **Does the company have a good track record?** Look up reviews of the company online. How long have they been in business? Are customers generally satisfied? Are there complaints registered with the Better Business Bureau (<https://www.bbb.org/>)?

4. **Does the company show concern for quality?** Evidence of this may be joining a professional organization (For example, The New Jersey Pest Management Association: njpma.com), having an entomologist on staff, staying on top of the latest research, or conducting follow-up visits to check for effectiveness.



Going Green: It's a great idea to consider alternatives to chemical pesticides, but natural products vary widely in effectiveness and may need to be applied more frequently.

Note: Any product that successfully kills ticks will also kill other insects and arthropods.

