

Child nursery under siege

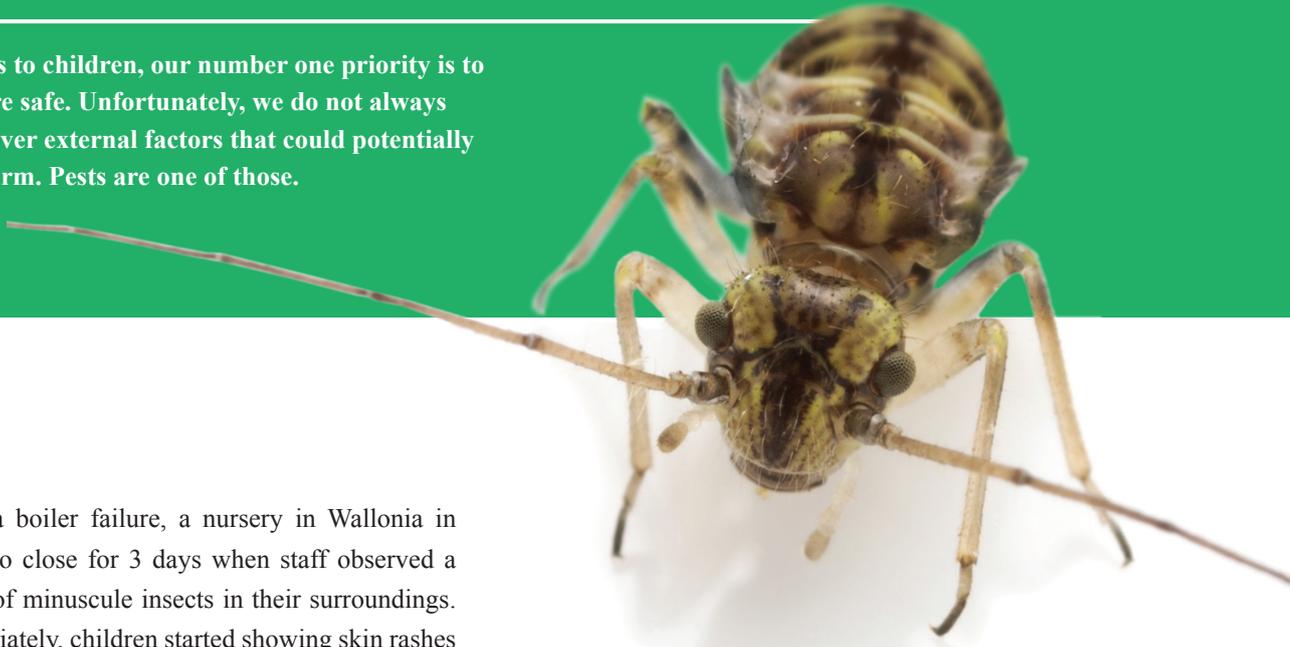
When it comes to children, our number one priority is to ensure they are safe. Unfortunately, we do not always have control over external factors that could potentially cause them harm. Pests are one of those.

Shortly after a boiler failure, a nursery in Wallonia in Belgium had to close for 3 days when staff observed a large number of minuscule insects in their surroundings. Almost immediately, children started showing skin rashes and irritations. A doctor intervened, calling for the closure of the nursery until the infestation was eliminated.

The nursery called a local professional pest management company, Biosix, to the rescue. Their professional expert staff quickly identified the type of insect causing the trouble: psocoptera, or booklice. Moisture and humidity on account of the boiler failure had created an environment for the booklice to thrive. The pest feeds on fungi. Besides the damage booklice can cause to food, they can also become a source of irritation or allergy for humans if they come in contact with the skin. That apart, the insect does not represent a health risk and is never a carrier of disease.

The intervention of the pest managers consisted in controlling the temperature and humidity thanks to dehumidifiers, coupled with a non-persistent insecticide. Furthermore, they applied mechanical control by placing double-sided stickers (to which the insects stuck) at the feet of the beds and furniture and by using powder to accelerate the drying in cracks and crevices.

Very quickly the number of insects dropped away. Within a week, 99% of the booklice had disappeared and the nursery reopened. Pest controllers briefed the staff on good practices for maintaining good hygiene and preventing the insect from reappearing.



#TheGoodPestManager@Work

This series of fact sheets showcases sustainable pest management practices and products. They provide snapshots of the good pest manager at work.

From vector mapping via innovative software to digital rodent traps and heat treatments, pest management is a unique and multi-faceted service sector that helps secure hygiene and by so-doing contributes significantly to public health. It is increasingly important today in dealing with the effects of climate change which are resulting in a growing incidence of plagues of insects and rodents.

These case studies capture the essence of the thought leadership and business acumen of this service sector, not only through the digitalisation of services but equally through a concern to respect and take care of the environments where infestations occur. In all instances presented, innovation is at the core of these sustainable business practices.

CEPA is proud to champion innovative and sustainable pest management practices that can be used successfully on the ground. We call it #TheGoodPestManager@Work. Professional pest management is a service sector that does not receive broad recognition or visibility. We hope these illustrative examples will shed light on the way we operate to prevent and deal with pest infestation and the value we bring to society on a daily basis.

About CEPA

Founded in 1974, CEPA, the European pest management services trade association brings together more than 70 national associations and companies along the whole pest management chain in 23 European countries. CEPA represents primarily the European pest management service sector, which at its core is a network of European SMEs with substantial economic growth potential. Our mission as a service sector is to contribute to the protection and assurance of the wellbeing of EU citizens especially in the context of smart, sustainable, healthy cities. We work with a broad range of actors at local level from manufacturers to the catering sector, from hospitals to schools and other educational establishments, from retailers to public authorities, from a wide range of businesses to political institutions at all levels. Against a backdrop of climate change increasing the presence of pests in urban environments, the sound management of overpopulated cities has never been more critical. Our sector of the service industry is leading the charge in assuring tangible, sustainable solutions for the well-being of Europe's citizens.