

What's Found Lurking in Air Ducts? Some Homes Find Allergens, Rodents — Even Snakes

In Hampton Roads, routine Air Duct inspections are revealing more than just dust.

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, UNITED STATES, January 13, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Hidden Hazards Found Inside [Air Ducts](#): Allergens, [Rodents](#), and Unwelcome Wildlife Found in Air Duct Systems

Recent observations and local reports highlight a growing concern for indoor air quality and home safety in the Hampton Roads region as homeowners discover a range of unwanted creatures and contaminants residing within residential and commercial air duct systems.



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Too many people don't realize what can be hiding in their air ducts until it becomes a real problem. Sometimes what is found on an inspection surprises people.”

Tanner Baine

Air Ducts Harbor More Than Just Dust

Air ducts play a crucial role in circulating conditioned air throughout homes and buildings. However, without regular inspection and cleaning, they can become reservoirs for dust, pollen, pet dander, mold spores, and other airborne allergens that contribute to poor indoor air quality. These particles can trigger allergic reactions, asthma attacks, sinus irritation, and other respiratory issues when circulated through air duct systems.

Rodents Inside the [Ductwork](#)

In a number of Hampton Roads communities — including Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk,

and Newport News — pest control professionals have identified rat and mouse activity directly inside home air ducts. These rodents are attracted to the warm, sheltered environment and can make nests, leaving behind urine, droppings, and dander. Their presence not only increases allergen levels, but also introduces health risks associated with rodent-borne diseases like hantavirus and salmonellosis when particles become airborne.

Experts warn that rodent infestations in air ducts systems often go unnoticed until residents experience unusual odors, increased allergy symptoms, or visible signs of waste. Professional pest control and air ducts cleaning are strongly recommended to safely remove these pests and sanitize the ductwork.

Snakes and Wildlife: Rare but Real Encounters

While far less common than rodents and allergens, snakes and other wildlife have been documented entering air vents and air ducts in homes across the U.S. Although there are no official regional news reports specifically confirming snakes inside ductwork in Hampton Roads, wildlife control and anecdotal homeowner stories show snakes — including non-venomous ratsnakes — sometimes enter vents or nearby openings while seeking warmth or tracking rodent prey. Similar incidents have been reported in Virginia and neighboring states, underscoring that such encounters, though rare, are possible.

What This Means for Residents

The combination of allergens, pests, and unexpected wildlife underscores the importance of:

- Routine inspection and professional duct cleaning to remove dust, mold, animal waste, and



Rodent Infestation In a Homes Air Ducts



other contaminants

- Sealing gaps and entry points where rodents and small animals can access ductwork
- Monitoring indoor air quality, especially for households with allergy sufferers, young children, or individuals with respiratory conditions

Maintaining clean, pest-free air ducts not only improves indoor air quality but can also help reduce energy costs, prevent health problems, and enhance overall comfort throughout the home.

George Pilkington
Universal Pest & Termite, Inc.

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