

# First Klass Window Cleaning Inc.



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Window & Screen Cleaning, Mirrors, Chandeliers, Ceiling Fans, & Curio Cabinets

## Your home has artillery “shotgun” fungus

- **What is Artillery fungus?**

Artillery fungus is those "mysterious black specks" appearing on windows, home siding, decks, or other surfaces. The spots seem impossible to completely remove. The specks appear to resemble insect feces or fly specks, they are actually mature spore masses expelled from fruiting bodies of a fungus known as "shotgun" or "artillery" fungus. This fungus develops in organic mulch that is placed around the home. The mushroom fungus opens up like a flower, and seeks out bright light sources to shoot the spores at. Spores can be "shot" as high as the second floor of a building (about 20 feet), and can spot downspouts, soffits, windows, cars, sun reflecting glass and other bright surfaces.

These spores are one to two millimeters in diameter, black, sticky, and globular in appearance. If you scrape the top of the black specks off with your fingernail you will reveal a reddish or cream color.

- **How can the Artillery Fungus be removed?**

Removing the black tar-like spots from glass surfaces requires wet scraping or blading. Removing the spots from other surfaces such as siding and aluminum is generally futile. The longer the fungus has been in place, the harder it is to remove from the glass and windows.

- **Now that I have this problem? Can it be prevented?**

For locations plagued with this problem, consider switching to inorganic mulch such as stone, pea gravel, etc. Or, a yearly addition of fresh mulch, so it completely covers old mulch, may lessen the problem, though it still may reoccur.

If possible remove the mulch or place the mulch at least 30 feet away from any surrounding bright surfaces. Some say that Shotgun Fungus does not grow on cedar, redwood, or cypress, which are all rot resistant woods. Avoid mulches made of wood chips or ground up wood pallets. Stirring up the mulch regularly to keep it dry retards the growth of Shotgun Fungus. Some experts also recommend treating the surrounding area with a fungicide, as well as cleaning up any animal droppings and rotting wood, as these are also prime conditions for the artillery fungus to grow. Ask your landscaper to help you with this problem.

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