



## Keeping Pests Away How to Manage Pests in Your Home

All pests need water, shelter, and food to survive. Homes are a natural place for pests to go because they can often find these things. The best way to manage pest problems is to prevent them from happening.

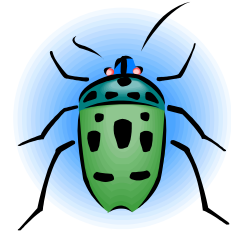
### You Have Pests, Now What?

Sometimes pests will get into your home. It is important to know the best way to remove the pest. While it may seem easier to reach for a can of bug spray, this may not be the best way to fix the problem. It is important to know a little bit about the pest before starting to solve your pest problem.

### What Kind of Pest is It?

There are six steps to help you better understand the pest and how to deal with it:

1. What is it?\*
2. Where does the pest live, breed, and what does it eat?
3. How many pests are there?
4. How many pests are too many?
5. What is the best way to get rid of the pest?
6. How well are your pest management efforts working?



\* Contact your county extension agent, found in the blue pages of the phonebook, or use <http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/casdept/IPM/pdf/commoninsects.pdf>.

### Steps to Remove Pests From the Home

Here are some tips on how to remove pests. It is important to try the non-chemical methods first and then, only if necessary, use chemical pesticides.

1. *Physically remove pest from your home.* This includes: vacuuming, snap traps, glue boards, and fly swatters.
2. *Practice good sanitary habits.* This includes: using tight-fitting lids on trash cans; keeping food containers tightly sealed; eliminating clutter and standing water; and cleaning up crumbs immediately.
3. *Maintain buildings on your property.* Ways to maintain buildings include: caulking cracks and crevices; replacing broken screens; repairing leaky faucets; and weather-stripping doors and windows.
4. *Investigate using a chemical pesticide.* First try less toxic chemicals that can be found at hardware and home repair stores. These chemicals include: boric acid, diatomaceous earth, silica gel, and insecticidal soaps. If these steps do not work, more toxic chemicals may need to be used and you may need to hire a pest management professional.



## Avoid Inside Household Pests

- **WIPE UP** spills inside your home or outside on patios, porches, or walkways.
- **CLOSE** opened food containers or bags. Use glass or plastic containers with tight, rubber sealed lids to store food.
- **INSTALL** screens on your outside house doors and windows. Patch any holes you have in your screens.
- **KEEP** a thick layer of weather sealer around doors and windows.
- **EMPTY** trash cans regularly.
- **REMOVE** empty boxes from storage areas.
- **FILL** holes and cracks in walls.
- **FIX** leaky pipes or faucets.
- **KEEP** a record of pests or pest sightings.



<b>Problem</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Solution</b>
Ants	Sticky, spilled juice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wipe up the juice.</li> <li>- Kill ants with foot to fix problem.</li> <li>- Monitor area to see if more ants are coming into the home.</li> </ul>
Wasps, Bees	Open window	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use a screen to prevent bees and wasps from entering.</li> <li>- Repair screen if it has holes in it so that pests cannot get in.</li> <li>- Use a swatter to kill wasps and bees.</li> </ul>
Cockroaches	Leaky faucet and sugar stored in paper sacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fix leaky faucet by correctly identifying the broken part.</li> <li>- Place sugar in a tightly sealed container – a glass or plastic container with a rubber sealed gasket is best.</li> </ul>

