

Homeowner Pest Prevention Tips

Here are some simple things you can do to help prevent pests from getting into your home.

Indoor Tips:

- ◆ **Keep air conditioning filters clean.** Dirty filters can lead to moisture build-up, which is a magnet for pests.
- ◆ **Check for plumbing leaks and seal gaps around pipes.** Do this everywhere, but especially behind cabinetry. Water shouldn't be allowed to accumulate anywhere in or around your home.
- ◆ **Check grout around bathtubs and toilets.** A good caulk seal assures that even the smallest insects can't enter.
- ◆ **Clear your attic of clutter.** Clearing out clutter and sealing cardboard boxes prevents insects from nesting inside.
- ◆ **Store food in tightly sealed containers or in the refrigerator.** This cuts off potential food sources for pests.
- ◆ **Don't leave pet food or water out overnight.** This eliminates a possible food source during a time period when pest activity increases.

Outdoor Tips:

- ◆ **Outside doors must be well sealed.** If light can be seen from around or under a door, then insects can gain access inside your home.
- ◆ **Repair torn screens.** Screens are a prime entry point for pests.
- ◆ **Seal around soffits and gable vents.** This keeps rodents and insects from getting inside the roof or attic space.
- ◆ **Seal around conduits and piping where it enters the structure.** Many insects and rodents follow power lines or climb conduits and pipes to get inside your home.
- ◆ **Check gutter drains to ensure water is kept away from your home.** This helps discourage moisture build-up adjacent to your home.
- ◆ **Remove excess leaves from the roof and rain gutters.** This keeps ants and other insects from breeding under the build-up.
- ◆ **Caulk all cracks and crevices.** Check and seal under window frames and around pipes entering the side of the home to keep insects from entering.
- ◆ **Keep trash cans clean and lids sealed.** This keeps ants, roaches and flies from feeding and breeding in the trash.
- ◆ **Keep the garage door closed and make sure weather stripping is in good condition.**
- ◆ **Prune excess vegetation touching the home.** Pay special attention to eaves and the roof.
- ◆ **Remove wood debris and keep woodpiles away from your home's foundation.** This helps prevent rodent nesting or insect colonization next to your home.
- ◆ **Ensure your irrigation system is functioning properly.** Make sure water doesn't accumulate near the foundation or sprays onto your home.
- ◆ **Guide air conditioner drip line away from the foundation.** Extend the piping at least 2 feet.

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