

Alternatives to Pesticides: Indoor Pests

Pesticide Control Program
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Environmental Protection
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Consider using alternative methods to control pests around the home or office and put those cans of bug spray away. Listed here are some of the most common indoor pests and alternative ways for their control.

COCKROACHES: Seal all small cracks and crevices along the baseboards, wall shelves and cupboards, and around pipes, sinks, and bathtub fixtures. Store food items and pet food in closed containers. Thoroughly clean up grease and spills. For a trap, lightly grease the inner neck of a milk bottle and put a little stale beer or a raw potato in.

ANTS: Seal all small cracks and crevices and crevices around structural elements, such as wires and pipes, especially in kitchens and food storage areas. Store food items and pet food in closed containers. Thoroughly clean up grease and spills. Sponge ant trails with soapy water to remove the foraging ants' scent trails. If using pesticides, ant baits are usually more effective and safer than sprays when properly placed.

FRUIT FLIES: Keep fruits and vegetables stored in the refrigerator when possible. Pour a small amount of beer into a wide-mouth jar. Cut the corner out of a plastic bag and pull it over the jar, attaching with a rubber band. Flies will enter and be trapped. Change the beer when necessary.

FLIES: Sunny windows are the fly's most common entrance into your home, so close windows before the sun hits them. Make sure screens are tight-fitting and have no holes. The use of such devices as ultraviolet light traps, sticky fly traps, baited fly traps, etc. can eliminate many flies from inside a home. You can make your own sticky trap with honey and yellow paper. The fly swatter is still a very good means of controlling flies.

MOTHS: Keep vulnerable clothes dry and well aired. Clothing, blankets, and tapestries, if infested, should be laundered or dry cleaned. Small carpets and throw rugs can be taken outside and beaten and brushed while hanging from a line to remove most, if not all, eggs and larvae. Cedar wood chips naturally repel moths; cedar hangers are also effective. To trap moths, mix 1 part molasses with 2 parts vinegar and place it in a yellow container. Clean regularly.

HOUSE PLANT PESTS: Wash the plants with a weak solution of soap and water. Don't forget soap and water, but be sure to rinse the plants with fresh water afterwards. If highly infested, change the potting soil.

SPIDERS: Under ideal conditions, do not destroy spiders because they help control pests.

SILVERFISH: Seal all small cracks and crevices and crevices around structural elements. Store food items and pet food in closed containers. Reduce sources of water as much as possible: use dehumidifiers in damp basements and keep all drains flowing freely. Traps can be made with a mixture of 1 part molasses to 2 parts vinegar. Place near cracks and holes where pests live.

FLEAS: If your pests are infested, wash them with a low toxicity pesticide. If the fleas have infested your home, vacuum, remove the vacuum bag, seal it, and dispose of it immediately (outside your home). Vacuum again in a week, again disposing of the bag outside your home. Low toxicity insect growth regulators can also be used to prevent insects from reaching the adult stage, stopping reproduction. Consult your local County Extension Service for information on these and other pesticide products.

MICE: Seal all wall and foundational cracks and keeping rooms clean. Store food items and pet food in closed containers. There are many different kinds of mice traps available. Peanut butter can be used to attract the mice for spring loaded traps. Glue boards trap mice with a very sticky substance. There are a number of devices that trap mice without killing them. The mice can then be released in an open area.

Please contact the following if you need more information:

NJDEP Pesticide Control Program

General information: 609-984-6507

To report a pesticide misuse: 609-984-6568

Website: www.pcpnj.org

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network

For questions on possible health effects: 1-800-858-7378

New Jersey Poison Information System

For emergency situations involving pesticide exposure or poisoning:
1-800-222-1222