



## **INSECT PESTS:**

The best way to control insect pests is to remove potential breeding spots. Examples of pests include: flies, mosquitoes, lice, bed bugs, and cockroaches.

### **Eliminate Breeding Spots**

1. Empty water from barrels, old tires, children's toys, pet food dishes and other vessels. They may be collecting rainwater or possibly polluted floodwaters (in the event of a recent flood) and can serve as a breeding place for insects. Check clogged gutters and flat roofs. Make sure cisterns, cesspools, septic tanks, fire barrels and rain barrels are covered tightly.
2. Wherever possible, drain ponds, pools, or any standing water that can serve as a breeding site for mosquitoes.
3. If drainage is impossible, treat water puddles that are still standing with larvacide as recommended by the regional health authority.
4. Eliminate any food sources for flies and cockroaches by disposing all refuse. Bury animal carcasses (i.e. road kill or dead livestock) as soon as possible. Dispose of garbage at least once a week. Store garbage in containers with tight fitting lids. If using garbage to compost, spread it as thinly as possible to allow it to dry quickly.
5. Use a household ready-to-use spray, aerosol, fly-strip, or electrical zapping device to kill mosquitoes, flies, or other insects that are infesting buildings. In extreme infestations, it may be necessary to contact a pest control company. Listings can be found in the Yellow Pages under "Extermination".
6. If possible, keep small children indoors, especially in the evening. Persons who must go outside at dusk should use a repellent on exposed parts of their bodies and clothing.

## **RODENTS:**

These unwelcome pests can cause property damage and, in extreme cases, pose a potential health problem.

### **Mice**

1. Try to remove all debris that provides protective cover for rodents from around houses and buildings.
2. Keep lawn and field vegetation mowed at a low level to eliminate protective cover for rodents.
3. Remove any potential food source such as household trash, waste grain, or other foods that might attract mice.
4. Openings into buildings around water pipes, electrical wires, vents, and doors should be closed with 1/8 – inch mesh hardware cloth and/or sheet metal.
5. Registered toxicant baits with zinc phosphide or anticoagulantes are effective in mouse control. Snap traps are effective in capturing nuisance mice. Successful trap baits for the trigger mechanism include whole kernel corn, peanut butter and oatmeal, and oatmeal paste. Traps should be checked each day.

### **Squirrels in Houses and Buildings**

1. Squirrels can be prevented from climbing onto roofs by encircling trees and poles with 2-foot-wide (~60 cm) collars of metal 6 feet (~1.8 metres) off the ground. Metal sheets should be attached using encircling wires held together with springs to allow for tree growth. Trees should be trimmed to prevent squirrels from jumping onto roofs.
2. Prevent squirrels from traveling on wires to houses and building by installing 2-foot sections of lightweight 2 or 3 inch diameter plastic pipe. Slit pipe lengthwise, spread open, and place over wire. The pipe will rotate on the wire and cause traveling squirrels to fall.

3. Close openings to attics and eaves of houses and buildings with heavy ½ inch wire mesh or sheet metal. In closed attics, naphthalene (moth balls), methyl nonyl ketone crystals, or paradichlorobenzene (moth crystals) may work temporarily as a repellent.
4. Commercial traps can also be used to catch squirrels. Good baits are slices of orange and apple, walnuts and pecans removed from the shell, peanut butter, and sunflower seeds.

### **SNAKES:**

Snakes like to inhabit areas such as the inside of houses, storage sheds, barns, and other buildings. Damaged structures have a higher probability of attracting snakes due to the many accessible entrances. In addition, displaced snakes may also be found under debris scattered by a storm or in debris piles created during the cleanup effort.

#### **Outdoors**

1. Watch where you place your hands and feet when removing or cleaning any type of debris. If possible, don't place your fingers under debris you intend to move.
2. Wear heavy boots at least 10 inches high in heavy debris areas where snakes are likely to be found.
3. Watch for snakes sunning on fallen trees, limbs, and other debris.
4. If you encounter a snake, steep back and allow the animal to proceed on its way. Snakes are usually not fast-moving animals and a person can easily retreat from the snake's path.

#### **Indoors**

1. If you find a snake in your house, try to isolate the snake within a small area of the house. If you are uncomfortable about removing the snake yourself, seek someone in the community or refer to the Yellow Pages under "Extermination".

2. All openings around the house that are a ¼ inch or larger should be sealed to exclude snakes. Check areas such as corners of doors and windows, around water pipes, and electrical service entrances. Holes in masonry foundations should be sealed with fine 1/8 inch mesh hardware cloth and/or sheet metal.
3. Remove debris from around the house as soon as possible. This attracts rodents that snakes feed on and also provides shelter for snakes.
4. If you are bitten by a poisonous snake, don't try to treat the bite yourself. Go to the nearest hospital for treatment immediately. Try to make a mental note of the appearance of the snake for treatment and identification purposes.

### **INSECT AND RODENT CONTROL (SUMMARY)**

Insects and rodents can spread disease and spoil food.

1. remove all insect breeding places
2. seal all rodent entrances, particularly around foundations and where drains/pipes enter the building
3. keep all garbage in a container with a tight-fitting lid and remove refuse regularly
4. all doors and windows need to be screened, maintain screens in good repair and all gaps around windows and doors to outdoors need to be sealed
5. read instructions carefully before using/applying and poisons
6. obtain professional assistance from PCO

Source: US Army Center For Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/ento/facts/flood.htm> (accessed 3/20/2006).