



Homeowner Fact Sheet

Pest Control: The Basic Facts

What are pests?

Pests can be insects such as cockroaches, and rodents such as rats and mice. Pests inside a home can create health problems, such as triggering an asthma attack and spreading disease.

What steps can I take to control pests?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a healthy way to keep your home pest-free. It includes the following steps:

1. Make sure all food is properly contained, this includes dog food. If it is noticed that pests have eaten into a package of food, throw the food away. Pests have a hard time getting to food if it is properly contained in plastic or glass containers.
2. Look for areas that pests may be entering the property, this may include holes in the walls, gaps in areas that have access to the outside, and cracks around baseboards and pipes. Make sure to properly seal any cracks and gaps with caulk or sealant. It is also recommended to fill in gaps in areas that have outside access with a dense material, such as steel wool or wire mesh netting.
3. Keep your home as clean and clutter free as possible. Pests like to live in clutter and can easily find food in a home where spills and crumbs aren't cleaned up quickly. Make sure to keep trash covered and take it out frequently.
4. Reduce the number of pests already inside the home. Hazardous pesticides are not the best answer to reduce the number of pests. Many pesticides have negative health effects, are toxic or poisonous, and may remain in the home environment for a long time. Using a less hazardous pesticide with low-toxicity is best. An example of a less hazardous pesticide is boric acid. Boric acid may be used in cockroach bait and where cockroaches have been seen. For more information on integrated pest management and low-toxicity pesticides please visit www.epa.gov or www.ehw.org.

How can I learn more?

For more information about pest control contact CLEARCorps USA by visiting www.clearcorps.org, or call 651-603-8000