



Pesticide Safety at Home

PREVENT PEST PROBLEMS IN THE HOME

Insects and other pests usually enter homes looking for food, water or a place to live. The best way to deal with pest problems in the home is to prevent them.

Repair all screens and seal any cracks or openings in walls and around windows and doors.

Keep wood piles, leaves and landscape plantings away from the walls of your house.

Prevent carpenter ants problems by protecting wood surfaces from decay and repairing damaged wood surfaces (e.g., steps, decks, windowsills).

Avoid ants in the kitchen by cleaning up drips and spills of any sweets like ketchup and jam. Also, ants use scent trails left by other ants to find food sources in your house - wiping up the scent trail with soap and water will reduce indoor ant problems.

IF YOU PLAN TO TREAT A PEST PROBLEM IN THE HOME

- If using ant traps or baits, make sure they are secured from tampering by children and pets.
- Never use a garden pesticide inside your home unless the product label specifically recommends it.
- Before you apply a pesticide indoors, remove all food, cooking utensils, children's toys, pet food and water dishes from the area to be treated and cover all food preparation surfaces.
- Cover all aquariums before treating - fish are very sensitive to some types of pesticides.
- Avoid contact with the treated area at least until the product has dried.
- If possible, open all windows and doors for a few hours after application.
- If you, a child or pet becomes ill after contact with a pesticide seek medical attention, and bring along the product label.
- Look for reduced risk products like boric acid and diatomaceous earth.

USING PERSONAL INSECT REPELLANT

- Keep all insect repellent containers out of the reach of children.
- Only apply insect repellents on exposed skin and on top of clothing - don't use under clothing.
- Don't use personal insect repellents on children under the age of two.
- Never apply insect repellents to children's hands.

PEST CONTROL FOR YOUR PETS

- Never use people products on your pets- they may cause skin irritation.
- Never use dog products on cats or cat products on dogs - using the wrong type of product can make your pet very ill.
- If fleas are a problem, talk to your vet about newer flea prevention products as an alternative to controls like sprays, baths and collars.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

- Store pesticides out of reach of children and pets, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Wrap all empty pesticide containers in several layers of newspaper and dispose of them in the regular household garbage.
- Don't recycle empty pesticide containers or reuse them for anything else.
- Never dispose of any unwanted pesticide by flushing it down the drain or toilet.



**Protect yourself, children and
pets
if using a pesticide in the
home or garden.**

**REMEMBER - READ THE
LABEL,**

**when you choose it
and
when you use it.**