



Pests and Environmentally Friendly Control

There are many creatures that we may regard as pests. Pests are basically those creatures that interfere with the enjoyment of our lifestyle. They have taken advantage of the way we live or work and the way we store our food.

Unfortunately these pests can have a sinister side to them. They carry disease. The disease transmission may be biological, that is; play a specific role in the cycle of disease organisms, or it may be through passive means, that is; transport of disease organisms from infected areas onto food. Cockroaches and flies have been known to carry diseases such as Typhoid, Tuberculosis, salmonella poisoning, hepatitis and dysentery. Mosquitoes have been known to spread Encephalitis, Dengue Fever, Malaria, and Ross River Fever. Rats and mice also contaminate food through direct contact and transportation of disease organisms, or transport of other pests capable of spreading disease, such as the flea. The best way to limit pests in your home is to make them feel unwelcome by removing their shelter and making access to their food difficult. The following pests are the most commonly encountered around the house. We trust that the information in this fact sheet will assist in controlling pests and provide alternatives to prevent these pests causing problems in and around the house.

Pest	Prevention	Control	Repellent
Ants	Increase hygiene, detect and destroy nests, seal food storage containers and remove food scraps and crumbs from dining areas promptly.	Use pyrethrins and borax dust. Use boron by mixing 1 to 1 with a naturally appealing food such as honey, animal fat, peanut butter etc. Treat nests with boiling water.	Spearmint, peppermint, pennyroyal, citronella, red pepper, cut lemon, or dried cucumber peel.
Cockroaches	Seal all cracks and entry points in walls and cupboards, install flyscreens, improve hygiene, remove rubbish located around the house and relocate compost piles away from the house. Keep garbage cans and kitchen tidies well sealed and provide good ventilation and plenty of light.	Use baits with synthetic pyrethroid or borax and pyrethrin sprays. Regularly clean cupboards with hot soapy water as well as limiting confined areas near to heat sources such as stoves and refrigerator motors etc.	Tea tree leaves, cloves, increase light and ventilation, leave cucumber ends in cupboard until they shrivel.
Fleas	Vacuum carpets regularly, keep pets outside, and allow access of sunshine to heat rooms.	Premises and pets should be treated at the same time. Use Pyrethroid or pyrethrin sprays and thorough vacuuming.	Tea tree, fennel, lavender, mint, citronella, pennyroyal, rue, tansy.
Flies	Flyscreens, hygiene, and encourage natural predators such as birds and spiders. Use covered compost bins, dispose of rubbish effectively.	Fly traps and pyrethrins. Use flyswats.	Mint, basil, tomatoes, rue, tansy, eucalyptus oil, citronella, peppermint, lavender.



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Lice	Do not swap clothes or hats, improve personal hygiene. Keep long hair neat and tied back in children when at school.	Frequent washing in hot soapy water. Use fine toothed hair combs. Also see your chemist for advice.	Spearmint, peppermint, penny royal, thyme, basil.
Moths / Weevils	Seal all food containers. Keep clothes clean and well ventilated. Moths prefer animal products such as wool, felt and hair so these should be removed.	Expose clothes to sunlight. Put clothes through dryer. Do not use mothballs or flakes as naphthalene may be hazardous.	Garlic, Crushed bay leaves, lavender, rosemary, mint, dried orange peel. Cedar lined cupboards and chests.
Rats / Mice	Use metal flashings across building cavities, remove possible nesting sites. Improve hygiene and empty pet bowls after feeding.	Traps or grain baits along rat and mice tracks. Keep cats or terrier dogs.	Scatter peppermint and pennyroyal leaves. Lavender and camphor.
Silverfish	Improve hygiene, increase ventilation and light.	Pyrethroids, regular vacuuming.	
Snakes	Remove rubbish accumulations near the house. Keep yards free from long grass.	Snakes are protected and should not be killed. Contact your local Wildlife Rescue Group for assistance in relocating snakes.	
Spiders	Flyscreens, improve hygiene, remove debris and rockeries avoid leaving toys and shoes outside.	Remove with vacuum cleaner or broom. Pour boiling water into burrows. Don't remove harmless varieties as they control other pest populations.	
Ticks	Keep yard areas free from long grass.	Inspect pets and family after entering bush or grassy areas and remove ticks.	Citronella, thyme, sage, pennyroyal, rue, garlic.