



Pesky PESTS

Some simple tips for controlling pests.

Pests! We're not talking about the brother-in-law who overstays his welcome, we're talking about the creepy-crawly kind of pests. In most cases the best defence is a good offence, so keeping your home clean and in good repair is important.

■ Ants

Make your home less attractive to ants by caulking cracks and crevices in the foundation.

Eliminate food sources in the kitchen by keeping food in ant-proof containers. Clean up sugary spills right away. Discourage nesting near the house by using stone or gravel around the perimeter. If ants do get in, wipe up any you see with soapy water, check for the point of entry and seal it up. Commercial bait traps will help control the colony.

■ Bedbugs

This is an age-old pest that has recently gone through a resurgence in the GTA. It's more common in hotels, motels and hostels but they can end up in your home. These bugs are night-time blood feeders and although they are visible to the eye, go into hiding during the day.

You'll know you've got them if you see specks of dried blood on the bedding.

Bites are painless and we often aren't aware we've been bitten. If you suspect you have bedbugs, vacuum the mattress and bed carefully with a brush attachment. Vacuum baseboards, electrical outlets and any furniture near the bed. Dispose of the vacuum bag immediately. Steam-clean the mattress and box spring, and wrap in zippered bed covers. Cover the legs of the bed in petroleum jelly; since the bugs don't fly or jump, this will help keep them from climbing up into the bed. Professional pest control is also an option.

■ Clothing moths

A clean house helps keep these pests out. Vacuum often to prevent lint, dust or hair from accumulating on rugs, carpets, drapes, upholstered furniture, pet bedding, closets, and cracks and crevices in floors. After vacuuming, empty the bag at once. Clean garments regularly and put only clean garments away in storage. Store articles in tight storage containers. If you have infested articles, brush and hang them in the sun or have them dry cleaned.

For more information on pests, visit www.pestcontrolcanada.com. 🌿