



# SIMPLE WAYS TO PREVENT INSECTS AND RODENTS FROM ENTERING THE HOME

## 01. INSTALL AND MAINTAIN SCREENS ON ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS

If you don't have screen doors on your home, install them. Repair or replace any torn or damaged window screens. Use fine mesh screening to prevent all but the tiniest insects from entering your home.

## 02. SEAL AROUND ALL DOORS

If air and light can pass through, insects can get in. Install tight-fitting thresholds and door seals to the bottoms of exterior doors.

## 03. SEAL CRACKS IN YOUR HOME'S FOUNDATION, EXTERIOR WALLS, AND FASCIA BOARDS

Any crack in the exterior walls of your home is a welcome sign to insects. Grab a tube of paintable silicone and inspect your home from top to bottom. Seal any cracks you find.

## 04. SEAL AROUND SERVICE PIPES AND ELECTRICAL PENETRATIONS IN EXTERNAL WALLS

Check where the hot water unit is located the electrical conduit and water pipes may have tiny cracks around them which must be sealed to prevent vermin entering the property.



## 05. INSTALL VERMIN PROOF MESH ON VENTS AND IN CRAWL SPACES

Possoms, rats, mice, and even birds may make themselves at home in crawl spaces and if you don't install barriers to keep them out. These animals may carry mites, fleas, or other pests that will then infest your home.

## 06. ELIMINATE MOISTURE BY FIXING LEAKS.

Most insects (except for those that live in arid environments) require a certain amount of humidity to survive. Any source of moisture can attract them. Fix any plumbing leaks, however minor, promptly. Even condensation on pipes can drip and create suitable places for bugs to live. If your basement or crawl space takes on water during heavy rains, you're asking for insect problems. Install a proper drainage system, and run dehumidifiers if needed.

## 07. KEEP A TIDY KITCHEN

Where there's food and water, insects will happily make themselves at home. Do all you can to keep your kitchen clean. Wipe up crumbs, sweep or vacuum the floor, and clean up spills right away. Don't leave dishes in the sink overnight. Clean out the toaster and microwave regularly. Scrub down your stovetop every day. Throw away food scraps and packages

## 08. KEEP FOOD SEALED UP TIGHT

If you have a kitchen pest problem, you'll need to take drastic steps to eliminate food sources for the offending insects. Store cereals, grains, rice, and other pantry items in air tight containers. Keep opened food containers in the refrigerator.





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### 09. GET RID OF CLUTTER

Insects need places to hide, and a cluttered home is an insect's paradise. Recycle unneeded boxes and newspapers promptly. Keep laundry in clothes baskets. Keep your floor clear of belongings, and put things away after you use them.

### 10. CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PETS

Some insects like pet food, and others like pet waste. Clean your pet's food dishes regularly, and don't leave extra pet food accessible. Store dry food in air tight containers. Scoop and clean your cat's litter box daily. Wash your pet's bed or favourite blanket regularly.

### 11. TAKE THE GARBAGE OUT FREQUENTLY

If you can smell it (even a little), it's going to attract insects. In fact, insects are much more sensitive to odours than we are, so even if you can't smell it, it may attract bugs. If you're really worried about insect pests in your home, empty your garbage often. Line your bins with plastic garbage bags, and tie them tight before you put them in your wheelie bin

### 12. RINSE RECYCLABLES THOROUGHLY

Your recycling bin is a smorgasbord for bugs. Soft drink cans, beer bottles, and pet food cans will all attract insects if they aren't rinsed out thoroughly.





### 13. SCRUB YOUR RUBBISH BINS

Even with your garbage in plastic bags, there's bound to be a spill or torn bag now and then. Scrub out all of your trash bins to eliminate smells and sticky substances that may attract insects. Several times per year, use a solution of bleach to clean your outdoor bins thoroughly, especially if you keep them close to your house

### 14. CLEAN UP YOUR YARD

Mulch, leaves, and garden debris can all harbour insects. Keep mulch away from your home's foundation, and clean up any accumulated organic matter. Mow your lawn regularly, and keep it short near your house.

### 15. PRUNE TREES AND SHRUBS

When trees and shrubs come in contact with your home, they function as highways for insects on the move. Keep tree branches pruned so they don't rest on your roof. Prune shrubs away from windows and doors.

This can effect cause a bridging effect, where the nuisance insect can cross over avoiding the treated area below.

Most of these items can be purchased at your local hardware store.

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