

Preventive measures are the best way to control pests. Assessing the potential for pest problem will help limit the problems associated with common pests.

Tips for maintaining a pest free environment...

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Please call the
Westchester County
Department of Health at
(914) 813-5000 to report
health emergencies, such
as chemical, oil or sewage
spills or illegal dumping.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County
26 Legion Drive ■ Valhalla, New York 10595

Westchester
gov.com

Tips



RODENTS

for



COCKROACHES

maintaining



ANTS

a



DOMESTIC FLY

pest



MOSQUITOES

free



SPIDERS

environment...



TERMITES

Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Westchester County
&
The Westchester County
Pest Management Committee

Westchester County Law

In order to protect public health and the environment, in 1995 a law was passed to greatly reduce the use of chemical pesticides on all county properties. Since that date, Integrated Pest Management has been the means of pest control

REASONS FOR THIS LAW

Pesticides:

- are toxic chemicals designed to kill living organisms; they also kill other beneficial life
- persist in the environment from a few days to many years
- travel up the food chain, becoming more concentrated at the top
- pollute your drinking water and air
- may be absorbed through the skin or inhaled

The US Environmental Protection Agency has stated that no pesticide may be considered safe even if used as directed. Registration only means it performs as the label asserts - to kill the target pest.

Chronic exposure to pesticides has been linked to cancer, birth defects, neurological disorders, liver, kidney and respiratory damage, and immune system dysfunction. Recent studies suggest that toxic chemicals can mimic hormones, causing endocrine disruption of the normal reproductive and developmental processes. The unborn and children are at the greatest risk.

THE PEST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To implement this policy the law established a Pest Management Committee consisting of seven citizens appointed by the Board of Legislators. There are ex officio representatives from County departments. The Chair of the BOL Committee on the Environment acts as advisor to the Committee.

Some of the duties of this Committee are:

- evaluate current pest management practices and recommend changes consistent with IPM
- develop educational materials
- provide IPM training for County staff
- select the least toxic pesticides available, if needed
- act as a resource and in conjunction with County departments
- monitor progress of IPM programs
- keep records of all pesticide applications in a data base

All meetings of the committee are open to the public.

Integrated Pest Management is a

systematic approach to managing pests, which focuses on long-term prevention or suppression with minimal impact on human health, the environment and nontarget organisms. IPM incorporates all reasonable measures to prevent pest problems by properly identifying pests, monitoring population dynamics, and utilizing cultural, physical, biological or chemical pest population control methods to reduce pests to acceptable levels.

IPM is a verifiable way to manage pests.

When an IPM program is implemented, current practices are carefully documented so that reductions in pesticide use and transitions to less toxic materials can be demonstrated and measured. Anticipating pest problems saves time and money. IPM practitioners prevent potential pests by eliminating conducive conditions, detecting pests early before their populations can grow, and by establishing a building history so that pest occurrence can be predicted.

For more information contact your onsite Pest Control Specialist or Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County (Weekdays: 285-4640)

EMPLOYMENT AND PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES ARE OFFERED TO ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, GENDER, AGE OR DISABILITY

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Resources

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County Horticulture Help-line

(914) 285-4640 (weekdays 9am to noon) or <http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu>

Diagnosis of structural, lawn and garden pests, control guidelines and information on integrated pest management.

Westchester County Department of Health

(914) 637-4700 or www.westchestergov.com

Assistance Offered: Public health information and materials on environmental issues including air, land and water quality. Call 24 hour Complaint Bureau at (914)637-4700 to report health emergencies, such as chemical, oil or sewage spill or illegal dumping.

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network

1(800) 858-7378 <http://ace.orst.edu/info/nptn/index.html>
Emergency advice on pesticide poisoning to humans or animals. Service helps callers interpret and understand pesticide product labels and safety precautions.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation/ Bureau of Pesticide Management

1(518) 457-0917 or www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dshmp/pesticid/brochure.htm
Free brochure series on pest management, pesticide use, product labels and application.

The Bio-Integral Resource Center

1(510) 524-2567 or <http://www.birc.org>
Provides practical information on the least toxic methods using principles of IPM.

NYS IPM Program

1(800) 635-8356 or www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ipmnet/ny
Free brochures, "Beasts Begone" booklet, and catalog. Also, materials online. Extension educators available to work with communities.

US EPA Pesticide Safety Programs

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/safety>

BeyondPesticides: National Coalition Against Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP)

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/index.html>

Pest:

ALWAYS HAVE PROPER IDENTIFICATION OF THE PEST

RODENTS ■



Preventive Approach:

Kitchens & Food Storage

- Properly seal food containers and recycling bins. Glass containers work best. Sanitize kitchen appliances (seal trash cans, no dirty dishes in sinks, clean stovetops). Rodents can chew through plastic food containers.
- Seal cracks in walls. Mice fit through gaps with a diameter of 1/4 inch and chew 1 inch entrance holes and burrow holes. Rats chew 2 inch holes.
- Install screens on doors and windows.

Storeroom/Copier Room

- In storerooms, materials should be stored up off the floor on racks or pallets with enough space from walls to allow for cleaning and inspection. Inspect corners of ceilings for holes and cracks.
- Seal gaps around pipes with steel wool.

COCKROACHES ■

SEVERAL SPECIES EXIST (GERMAN, AMERICAN, BROWN BANDED, ORIENTAL)



Kitchens & Food Storage

- Eliminate roach snacks. Cockroaches eat anything organic.
- Properly seal food containers. Do not use plastic bags.
- Keep fruit in refrigerator.
- Do not let water sit in the pan under refrigerator.
- Sanitize kitchen appliances: seal trash cans, do not leave dirty dishes in the sink, clean stovetops and scrape food residue from sides of counters.
- Wipe up cockroach feces. They are an attractant for the newly hatched roaches which feed on them.

Offices & Storerooms

- Seal windows and doors with caulking.
- Eliminate improper food storage.
- Do not let water stand in houseplant dishes.
- Keep all cardboard and paper products off floor. They are favorite cockroach foods.

Restrooms

- Roaches require water. Repair leaky pipes and faucets.
- Repair worn grouting behind sinks. Install a backslash that does not trap water.

Monitoring Tips:

- Look for mouse droppings in cabinets, drawers, counters, under sinks, false ceilings and under vending machines.
- Look for gnawed wood or shavings near baseboards, corners and walls to find their entry holes.
- Rodents also gnaw plastic pipes and wire sheathing.
- Use sticky traps to identify rodents.
- Use tracking powder to confirm rodent presence.
- Scratch marks indicate constantly used points of entry.

- Cockroaches seek cracks and tight spots that are warm, dark and moist.
- Cockroaches are active during the evening (nocturnal) so try to inspect at night, using a flashlight and mirror to peek behind or under cabinets.
- When using sticky traps, remember to map where they have been placed and evaluate the areas of high populations.

Least Toxic Control Options:

- Place sticky traps and snap traps in runways between feeding and nesting sites.
- Avoid using baits in food areas. Mice can carry baits away from bait stations and contaminate food.

- Cockroaches can be effectively removed using a High Efficiency Particulate Air filter (HEPA) equipped vacuum.
- Use silica aerogel in combination with pyrethrum; it's a desiccant which dries up the insect.
- Abamectin-gel baits can also be an effective method of cockroach control.

ANTS



Prevent Access

- Prune nearby tree limbs and other vegetation that can be a bridge for ants seeking to enter.
 - Leave a 2- foot strip of gravel around the building to allow for inspection.
 - Eliminate moisture, wet wood and leaky pipes. Carpenter ants prefer to nest in wet wood because it is easier to excavate than dry wood. Also follow old termite damage.
 - Seal cracks, open pipes and electrical chases with caulk.
 - Do not place wood in contact with the soil; use a waterproofing compound where wood is in contact with concrete surfaces or asphalt.
- Inspect indoors and out.
 - Look for sawdust piles left from carpenter ant excavations.
 - Watch the ants come and go and see what they collect.
 - Winter adult ants will have wings. If they are present the nest will be indoors within 30 feet.
 - Ants outdoors can be seen during the day. Search the shady sides of objects, under logs and along wooden fences.

- Abamectin or Methoprene Baits work slowly but most effectively. Foragers feed these pesticides to other nest mates slowly killing whole colony.
- Use boric acid as a fine dust. Do not use in places accessible to children or pets.
- Baits help when ants are foraging indoors. In order for them to work, never clean or spray pesticides on the trail. Ants recruit others using their own chemical path.
- Diatomaceous earth can be used as a desiccant, it dries up the insect. It should not be used with baits.

DOMESTIC FLY



- Place screens on windows and doors.
- Cover garbage cans and recycle bins with lids and clean them often.
- Keep food products in sealed containers.
- Doors should be self closing.
- Eliminate areas that puddle.

- Use fly traps equipped with bait.
- Place sticky boards near light sources as flies are attracted to light.

- Pyrethrum may be applied as a spray to adult flies but it is very difficult to apply when insects are in flight.
- Sanitation works best.

MOSQUITO



Mosquitos need stagnant water to lay their eggs

- Check around the property to remove any water-holding containers, especially tin cans, plastic containers, old tires, buckets, drums, wheelbarrows and bottles.
- Screen windows and doors of buildings.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling bins for drainage and keep garbage cans covered.
- Have lawn areas mowed regularly.
- Be sure that rain gutters flow and drain properly.

- Look for areas that may puddle after rain.
- Check basement and sump pump areas for stagnant water.
- Make sure pumps on fountains and water gardens are functioning properly.
- Check screens in windows to make sure they are secure.

- Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis (a bacterium) can be used as a dunk in self contained pools such as bird baths, lined water gardens and defunct swimming pools.
- Small amounts of chlorine may be used to clean off swimming pool covers. Add two capfuls of chlorine in basement sump-pumps to reduce chance of mosquito breeding.

SPIDERS



Spiders are beneficial. They are predators to many nuisance pests

- Screen windows.
- Caulk holes in doors and window frames.
- Remove existing spider webs.

- Monitor basements, garages, porches and areas where they may seek secluded shelter.
- Look for their webbing (which is their method for trapping pests).

- Remove webs with broom or vacuum.
- Learn to live with a few!

TERMITES

(EASTERN SUBTERRANEAN)



- Keep soil at concrete foundation level. Do not let soil come in contact with wooden structures (porches, ladders, trellises, lawn furniture) as that will be the point of entry for termites.
- Keep shrubs trimmed back and leaves or mulch away from wood since this can be a point of contact as well.

- Install monitoring devices in the soil surrounding the structure to detect foraging termite activity (the bait is simply wood in a buried container).

- Once the monitoring device has detected termites the non toxic bait is replaced with a bait containing an insect growth regulator (IGR). This pesticide is eaten by the foragers and carried back to the colony where food is exchanged among nest mates. Several months may be necessary to eliminate a colony.