

Home Pest Prevention

By Lauren Meir

- Keep it Clean**
 - Cockroaches, flies, ants, mice and other vermin are attracted to food-** Cockroaches and flies are especially attracted to fruit and vegetables, so don't leave any out.
 - Keep crumbs at bay, so mice and ants will stay away! Sweep and vacuum the floor regularly and make sure to wipe down all countertops frequently.**
 - Cover, wrap or seal up all leftover foods and immediately store them in the appropriate place** Put meats and dairy in the fridge to avoid spoiling and attracting flies. Keep all cereals and crackers in sealed bags.
 - If food must be left out, make sure it's well covered, especially during the summer months.**
 - Dump all stagnant water to prevent a mosquito infestation.** ;Mosquitoes ;lay their eggs on the water's surface, so don't provide them with any opportunities to procreate!
- Take out the Trash**
 - Separate ;wet and dry trash.**
 - Put perishable refuse outside immediately, especially if it's meat, eggs, or other organic matter that decays quickly.**
 - Ensure trash can is always covered.**
 - Clean both indoor and outdoor trash cans and bins regularly** Pour a little diluted bleach in the bottom to kill germs and nix ordors.
- Maintenance Measures**
 - Install screens on doors and windows** This will prevent flies, mosquitos, and other pests from infiltrating your home during the summer months.
 - Patch up any holes in screens, walls, or other areas.**
 - Seal cracks in the walls.** Ants are especially adept at seeping in through the cracks, so make sure you don't have any!
 - Clean your home regularly, especially kitchens and bathrooms** Cockroaches and other vermin are attracted to damp, dark places and are often found in these locations.
 - Prevent pests naturally** Flies are repelled by citrus fruits, pine boughs and basil. Cockroaches loathe cedar and catnip. Have some of these on hand to keep critters at bay. Cats and dogs are also great (and free) pest control.