



PEST CONTROL TIPS



The "chemicals-only" approach to pest control is only a temporary fix. A more common sense approach is needed for a long-term solution. It is called *Integrated Pest Management*. Plan your IPM strategy in this order:

1. Physical controls: Caulking holes, barriers, hand picking, traps
2. Biological Controls: Predatory insects; bacterial insecticides;
3. Chemical Controls - Your Last Resort Use these least-toxic products: Dehydrating dusts (silica gel), Insecticidal soaps, Boric acid powder, Horticultural oils, Pyrethrin-based insecticides, Insect Growth Regulators

You can help!

Safe Substitutes for Pest Control

- For garden aphids and mites - Mix 1 Tablespoon of liquid soap and 1 cup of vegetable oil. Add 1 teaspoon of this mixture a cup of water and spray. (Oil may harm vegetable plants in the cabbage family.)
- For caterpillars - When caterpillars are eating, apply products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* to leaves.
- For ants - Place boric acid powder or hydramethylnon baits in problem areas, cracks, and insect walkways. It is a mild poison, so be sure it is inaccessible to children and pets.
- For roaches - Apply boric acid powder to cracks and entry points (see ants above). Place bay leaves on pantry shelves.

If You Must Use Pesticides

- Use a pesticide that is specifically designed to control your pest. The insect should be listed on the label. Approximately 90% of the insects on your lawn and garden are not harmful.
- Read labels! Use only as directed. In their zeal to control the problem, many gardeners use pesticides at over *20 times the rate* that farmers do.

How Safe Is Your Pesticide?

For information on pesticide safety, contact:

Poison Control Center Prevention, Education

1.800.582.3387

24-hour Hotline

1.800.876.4766;

1.800.972.3323 TDD (for hearing impaired)

National Pesticide

Telecommunications Network,

EPA-funded

24-hour Hotline: 1-800-

858-7378

Citizen's Guide to Pesticides, **EPA Consumer Information Center**

P.O. Box 100 Pueblo, CO

81002. (\$0.50)

Request #426X.

Pesticide Disposal

- Household toxics - such as pesticides, cleansers, and motor oil - can pollute the ocean and poison groundwater if disposed of in storm drains or gutters.
- Rinse empty pesticide containers and use rinse water as you would the product. Dispose of empty rinsed containers in the trash.
- Always dispose of unused household toxics at a Household Hazardous Waste event.
- Dumping toxics into the street, gutter, or storm drain is illegal!

About Pests.

Are Pests Taking Over?

- There might be good reason! You may need to make some changes at home to get that long-term solution you're looking for.

Are you giving the bugs a great place to live?

- Outside:

A moist, cool, protected environment. Bugs love: ivy, standing water, woodpiles, and mulch.

Animal waste, rotting fruit, and debris provide the perfect breeding ground for bugs.

- Inside:

Easy access into your house.

Easy access to food and water.

Have you killed your pests' enemies?

- Pesticides don't discriminate. They kill the good bugs along with the bad. And they kill birds, too.
- Encourage beneficial insects with a variety of flowering plants for year-round blooming.
- And you can buy beneficial insects.

Tips for maintaining healthy plants.

- A healthy plant can stand up to pests.
- Did you pick the wrong plant for your yard? Choose plants that do well in your area. Choose disease-resistant varieties (even roses!).
- Is your plant getting the right amount of light?
- Does the soil drain well?
- Have you fed your plants lately?

Remember to clean up all spills when they happen! If building materials or other wastes get into a gutter, storm drain, or creek call Stormwater Hotline at (580) 581-3565.