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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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JUN 15 1989
Cockroaches, kitchen insects, and other household pests are a common problem in all parts of the United States. They can get into anyone’s home.

Household pests are not always a sign of poor housekeeping. Sometimes they are brought into a house in grocery bags when food is brought home from the store. Sometimes these pests move from house to house by themselves. However, there may be more pests in places where dirt, garbage, and stacks of bottles and cans are allowed to pile up.

There are several things you can do to keep these pests from coming into your home. If some do get in, you can get rid of them. This booklet is to help you get them out and keep them out.
clothes moths

cereal insects

silverfish

fleas

ticks

millipedes

centipedes

spiders

rats and mice

crickets
The best way to control insects is to keep everything clean.

Clean all kitchen drawers. Wipe out any food scraps and wash the drawers.

Keep the floors clean.

Clean under the kitchen sink. Pick up all food scraps and wash the area well. It is easy for pests to get in by holes or cracks around pipes, so don’t leave food scraps to attract them.
Don't leave food out and uncovered. Wash dishes often enough so that dirty dishes (and food scraps) are not left out overnight.

Rinse out empty soft-drink bottles and milk bottles before storing them. This will also help keep bad odors from forming.

Use trash cans with tight lids for garbage. Take the garbage and trash out of the house every night. Wrap garbage in paper or in plastic trash bags before putting it in the can. Trash cans should be emptied at least once a week — twice a week, if possible. Keep them as clean as possible.

After cleaning up and picking up, use an insecticide — a spray that will kill insects.

**USING AN INSECTICIDE**

**Before you spray:**

1. Decide which insecticide will kill the pests you have. If you are not sure, you may want to check with your local office of the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service. It will be listed in your telephone book under the name of your county — for example, Cook County Cooperative Extension Service, Champaign County Cooperative Extension Service, Williamson County Cooperative Extension Service, and so on.

2. Read the instructions on the spray can. Be sure you understand what to do.
3. Put away anything that will be used to touch food or that will be put into anyone's mouth. For instance, before you spray kitchen cabinets, take out all food, all dishes, glasses, cups, knives, forks, spoons, pots, pans, eggbeaters, potato mashers, cookie racks, or any other food containers and cookingware. Take out anything an adult or child is likely to put into his mouth.

A good place to stack your dishes and other things is on the kitchen table.

*When you spray:*

- Apply only a light amount of spray to surfaces.
- Do not spray countertops, sink tops, tabletops, or other flat surfaces where food is handled.
- Do not spray when food is sitting out. Some spray might get on it.
- Do not spray around a stove or furnace that is running. Spraying near heat or near a flame might cause a fire or an explosion.
- Try not to spray plastic tile. The insecticide may stain or damage the tile.
- Do not smoke, eat, or drink while you spray.
- Spray all cracks in plaster. Spray around pipes where they come into your house or apartment.
- Spray under kitchen and bathroom sinks, especially where the pipes come through the walls.
- Spray behind the refrigerator and stove. Be sure to spray around the refrigerator motor.
- Spray all baseboards. Insects such as cockroaches love to hide behind them.
When you spray the kitchen drawers, take everything out of them and wipe out any food scraps. Then spray the OUTSIDES of the drawers. DO NOT SPRAY INSIDE THE DRAWERS. If you spray inside, poison will get on your knives, forks, spoons, and other cookingware. Then the poison will be eaten when you use them.

For kitchen cabinets take out all the food, wash or vacuum the cabinets, and then spray. Be sure to spray into the corners.

Let the spray dry before putting things back into your kitchen cabinets and drawers.
After you spray:

Keep the spray can where children can’t reach it. Put it on a high shelf or in a locked cabinet with other household poisons.

Wash your hands well to get all the poison off.

Using the right insecticide will kill insect pests that are in your home. But it is better not to let them get in at all. Get rid of food scraps and garbage, and keep holes and cracks plugged.

What to spray:

A spray of 0.5-percent diazinon or 1.1-percent Baygon is good to get rid of ants, crickets, centipedes, silverfish, cockroaches (also known as waterbugs), spiders, ticks, and fleas. These insecticides are sold under many different brand names. A list of common brand names for them is given on the page after next.

A 0.5-percent spray of Dursban can also be used instead of diazinon or Baygon to control cockroaches or silverfish. Dursban is sold under its own name.

Diazinon or Dursban will control carpet beetles and clothes moths.

For cereal insects do not use Baygon or diazinon. Instead, use 0.1-percent pyrethrin. Pyrethrin is in most sprays that are labeled “For Flying Insects” and is good for a quick knockdown of flying insects and fleas.

These sprays are the ones suggested in Illinois Extension Circular 900, Insect Control in the Home, Yard, and Garden. It also tells how to control many other insect pests. If you have insect problems besides the ones listed here, you may want to get a copy of Circular 900 from your local County Extension Office.

Instead of a spray, flea collars can be used on dogs and cats (but not on young puppies and kittens).
BRAND NAMES OF DIAZINON AND BAYGON

These insecticides are sold under many different brand names. We have listed many of the ready-to-use products you can buy. There are probably other brand names we have missed, so this list is only for your convenience. The Illinois Cooperative Extension Service does not endorse any of the products on the list or suggest that these products are any better than products not on the list.

You can buy the insecticides at pest-control stores; at hardware, grocery, drug, and discount stores; at lawn and garden centers; and at other places.
**Diazinon**

Gordon’s Ant & Roach Bomb  
Spectracide Ant & Roach  
Radar Household Insect Spray  
Hot Shot Roach & Ant Killer  
Pest-Ban Insecticide  
Real-Kill Roach & Ant Spray  
707 Ant & Roach Bomb  
Holcomb Inserid  
Purina Roach & Ant Spray  
Sentinel Two-Way Roach Spray  
Lethalalire B-3 Roach-Ant Killer  
Magic Circle Insect Killer  
Patterson’s Household Insecticide  
Pearson’s Bug Spray  
Pioneer Bug Spray (aerosol or liquid)  
Pratt DP-2 Special Insect Spray  
Pratt DP-2 Insect Spray  

Puro Deluxe Insecticide with  
Diazinon  
Residual Acme Concentrate  
Brayton’s Diazinon-Pyrethrum Roach & Fly Spray  
Cornell Roach Gard  
Residex Household Insect Spray  
Residual A-OK  
Resifume  
Safite Diazinon Spray  
Sani-Deth Household Insecticide  
USCO Tropical RoachKil  
VooDoo Magic Mist Aerosol  
VooDoo New Roach Magic  
Tanglefoot Residual Insect Spray  
Zep 10-X Special Insecticide  

**Baygon**

0.5% Pratt Ant & Roach Killer  
1.0% Pratt BGN Insect Spray  
1.0% Ortho-Baygon  
Germain’s Good Riddance  
Kill-Ko Roach & Ant Killer  
Unico Ant & Roach Insecticide Bomb  
Liminate Residual Insecticide  
Hornet & Wasp Spray — Heritage House  
Co-op Pesta-Cide Liquid Household Insect Spray 1.0%  
Raid Residual Liquid 1.10%  
0.5% Zep Roach & Ant Surface Spray  
1.5% Purina Roach & Ant Killer  

0.5% Black Flag with Baygon  
Green Light Roach and Ant Killer 1.0%  
KROKE Residual Insect Spray 1.0%  
Crawling Insect Killer 1.0%  
Magic Circle Residual Spray 1.0%  
Noprokill 1.0%  
Unico Ant & Roach Killer 1.0%  
Slayz Residual Spray 1.0%  
RS Residual Spray 1.0%  
Metro Tested Quick Action Bait Roach Killer 2.0%  
NIP-CO Ant Roach Nip (spray)  
TNT Roach and Ant Killer
FOR YOUR PROTECTION

1. Store insecticides out of reach of children and animals. The best place is in a locked cabinet.

2. It is not safe to breathe insecticide sprays for a long time. Try to spray in well-aired places and keep the sprayings short. Be extra careful when you spray in enclosed areas such as in closets, attics, basements, and crawl spaces.

3. Use soap and water to wash all parts of your body and clothes that the insecticide may have touched.

4. Wear rubber gloves when handling full-strength insecticide liquids that must be diluted with water. This is not necessary if you are just using a spray can.

5. Do not smoke while handling or using insecticides.

6. Leave any left-over insecticide in the container it came in and leave the label on it. Children have died from drinking insecticides stored in old soft-drink or milk bottles — they thought it was something good to drink.

7. Put empty insecticide containers in the trash can. Get them out of the house.

8. Do not leave puddles of spray on surfaces. Wipe up excess spray with a disposable cloth.

9. Do not spray insecticides near fishtanks.

10. Read all of the labels on insecticide containers. Follow the directions and obey all warnings.
CONTROL RATS AND MICE, TOO!

HOW RATS AND MICE GET INTO YOUR HOME

Rats and mice like to live near old buildings, sheds, woodpiles, piles of trash and garbage, and places that have not been cleaned for a long time. These animals can enter your home through open doors, windows, and vents and by crawling under the foundations of your house.

Rats and mice can come in through holes around where pipes or electrical wiring pass through the walls of a building. They can also come in through holes in the floor around waterpipes and other pipes. They can be carried into a house with potatoes, carrots, and other groceries. They can come in with a load of coal, wood, or corncobs.

A mouse can get in by any hole that you can put an ordinary pencil through.

KEEP RATS AND MICE OUT OF YOUR HOME

Think of every place rats and mice might get in. Don’t miss a trick. In some places you will want to keep them from chewing their way in. In other places make sure they can’t climb in.
Keep the floor drains tightly closed. This will stop rats and mice from coming in from sewers.

Patch all cracks and holes in walls and woodwork. Mix steel wool with the plaster. This will keep rats and mice from gnawing through the holes you have patched.

Because a rat's upper teeth curve in, it is very hard for him to gnaw into a flat, hard surface. He needs a chipped edge or a crack as a place to start gnawing. Each time he bites, his teeth make a new edge. By gnawing around the edges, a rat soon makes a hole.

Rats can get through holes that are 1/2-inch wide or wider. Mice can get through holes that are 1/4-inch wide or wider. Cover holes that big with sheetmetal or wire screens.
Put ¼-inch screen on windows, doors, and vents. Keep doors closed as much as possible. Use a good spring to make sure the door closes. Use a spring lock to make sure it stays closed.

Stuff holes around waterpipes with steel wool. Then fill the holes with concrete.

If pipes come in through a wood wall, bend sheetmetal around the pipes like a collar. Then nail the sheetmetal to the wall. The animals cannot gnaw through the metal to get inside.

Rats and mice can also dig underground — even under the basement blocks and floor. They can get in through doors, windows, and other openings. Once they are inside a building, they can climb right to the top.

To keep these animal pests from climbing, fit a 12-inch strip of sheetmetal into all corners that are above the floor or ground level.
KEEP RATS AND MICE FROM LIVING INSIDE YOUR HOME IF THEY GET IN

Rats and mice like to run along walls. They like to nest in anything piled against the wall. If you have piles of boxes, lumber, pipes, or other things you are storing, keep these piles away from walls and 12 to 18 inches up off the ground. This will get rid of nesting places where rats and mice usually live.

Do not use traps or poison to get rid of rats and mice. These are unsafe for children. Besides, they do not keep new rats and mice from coming in. The best way to control rats and mice is to make sure they can’t get in.
KEEP RATS AND MICE FROM LIVING NEAR YOUR HOME

Do not pile wood, paper, leaves, or trash near or against the outside walls of your home.

Fill holes around the house or yard with old tin cans, bricks, concrete, or sheetmetal. Your local hardware store will have most of these things.

Keep open and clean any space under the steps that lead into the house. The openings under wooden steps make good places for rats and mice to nest. Concrete or masonry steps, usually built with no openings under them, are better than wooden steps for keeping rats out.

If you are storing boxes, lumber, pipes, or other things outside, keep them 12 to 18 inches up off the ground.

If you have questions or need more advice about getting rid of household pests, call your local Cooperative Extension Service office.


The Illinois Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Urbana, Illinois
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