

Pest Control

Household pests include cockroaches, mice, rats, and bed bugs. These pests can cause discomfort and spread sickness to the entire family. It is important to keep your house clean. Crumbs will attract these pests into the home. If the pest does not find food, they will not stay.

Cockroaches

Cockroaches are bugs that hide in the day and come out to feed at night. They like to hide where it is damp and warm. Favorite hiding places are: under sinks, behind the stove and refrigerator, and in cupboards. Cockroaches will feed on any type of food that is left out in the home. They even feed on the glue that holds cardboard boxes together. When you buy large boxes of food, like rice, you must transfer it to a plastic container for storage.

Cockroaches carry germs on their bodies and legs, spreading these germs throughout the house. They contaminate the food that they touch and give off a odor that stinks badly.

You may want to hire an exterminator to come in and treat your home for cockroaches. The exterminator will spray a poison treatment throughout the house. This treatment will kill the roaches. If the home is sprayed you will need to stay somewhere else until it is safe to return. The exterminator will let you know when it is safe to go back home. Dead cockroaches will be seen when you return. You must sweep them up, and wash your countertops, walls, and floors to remove any poison that remains after the treatment.

Mice and rats

Mice and rats carry disease. They constantly urinate which contaminates both food and any item that they walk on. Both mice and rats need to chew to keep their teeth worn down. They will chew on wiring, packaging, and woodwork.

To keep mice and rats from entering your home make sure that any gaps leading to the outdoors are repaired. Keep all food items stored where the pests can not reach. Sweep floors often to keep crumbs and food items from attracting them into your home. A strip with brush hairs or bristles on them can be used for the gaps found under doors.

Traps and poisons can also be used to get rid of mice and rats. But they **MUST** be kept away from children.

Bed bugs

Even if you are clean, bed bugs can infest your home. Bed bugs are active during the night. They feed on sleeping victims leaving bite marks that itch and can be painful. They can live for several months without food and water.

It is very hard to get rid of bed bugs once they have infested your home. If you have bed bugs you must vacuum every day. Lift the mattress and make sure you vacuum both sides and the edges by the seams. Bed bugs can also hide in cracks in the bed frame as well as in the walls. Wash your bed sheets, blankets, and any other items that the bed bugs live on. Bed bugs can not survive in really cold temperatures. You can place your vacuum bag in the freezer for 24 hours to kill the bugs that you vacuumed up.

To help keep bed bugs from climbing on your mattress, pull your bed away from the wall and make sure that the blankets are not touching the floor. Bed bugs can not fly. To keep them from crawling up the bed posts you can put 3 or 4 inches of petroleum jelly, Vaseline, on the legs of the bed. An exterminator can also be called to help you get rid of the bed bugs.

Finally

If you are renting an apartment, contact your landlord as soon as you notice the presence of pests. It is your job to keep your apartment clean. It is the landlords job to make sure that the apartment is free from pests.

If you own your home or your landlord has not helped out with the pest problem you can call your local 'Environmental Health Department Office'. In the Buffalo, New York area you can contact the Environmental Health Field Office at 716-961-6800.