

# Pest Issues

## What are household pests?

Any animal or insect that is **unwanted inside your home** is considered a household pest. Some common household pests include:

- Mice, Rats & Other Small Rodents
- Cockroaches
- Bedbugs
- Fleas & Ticks
- Ants
- Flies & Gnats
- Termites
- Bees & Wasps



## Why are pests in my home?

**In search of food.** This the most common reason pests enter your home. You can help address this issue by:

- Storing food items that are attracting pests in sealed metal, glass or ceramic containers
  - Throw away all food that has already been contaminated by pests, do not attempt to save or re-store them
- Keeping any areas where food is eaten, stored, or prepared clean of crumbs, left-overs, and trash
- Laying down a scent-barrier for insects to discourage them from entering your home



## Why are pests in my home? (Continued)

**In search of water.** Often excessive humidity, leaky pipes, and overall dampness in your home can cause a pest problem. You can help address this issue by:

- Fixing leaky pipes
- Using dehumidifiers



**In search of shelter.** Both rodents and insects prefer dark, undisturbed areas to take shelter. You can help address this issue by:

- Decreasing the amount of clutter stored in your home
- Keeping an eye out for signs of pests in less used areas of your home like basements, attics, and closets



**Easy access points for pests to enter your home.** If your home has cracks, holes, or damaged window screens it can makes it easier for rodents and insects to enter your home. You can help address this issue by:

- Patching or fixing all cracks and holes as soon as you notice them
- Placing scent barriers to deter insects from wanting to enter your home
- Repairing or replacing damaged window screens

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## Can household pests cause health issues for my family?

Household pests can often **cause issues with your family's health**. For example:

- Cockroaches can cause and aggravate respiratory issues, like allergies and asthma.
- Rodent droppings can trigger allergies and transmit food borne illness such as salmonella.
- Allergies to bedbug and flea bites or droppings can cause hives, rashes, itching and burning, and trigger asthma attacks.



## Can household pests cause issues with my home?

Household pests not only cause health issues for your family but also **issues with the overall health and safety of your home**.

For example:

- Rodents can cause significant structural damage to your home. They can gnaw through and tear up your home's insulation and wood components; and even cause electrical fires if they chew through wiring.
- Much like rodents, an infestation of ants or termites can chew through wood, insulation, wiring, and drywall.

## What is the best strategy to handle household pests?

Although there are many strategies to tackle an issue with pests in your home, often a **combination of several approaches** will prove to be the most effective. This approach is typically known as **Integrated Pest Management**. When deciding which strategies to use to handle household pests, it's important to keep in mind:

- Effectiveness of the strategy against your home's specific type of pest(s)
- Health effects the strategy may have on your family and the surrounding environment
- Cost and maintenance of products and services used to employ the strategy
- How long it takes for the strategy to show results and how long it remains effective

