

## 6 TIPS TO PREVENT PEST INVASION

Housing Department

As colder weather approaches, pest such as insects and rodents will start seeking winter shelter. Aside from being a nuisance, some pests can damage food or possessions in your house. Simple preventive measures can stop most problems before they begin. Here are 6 tips to get rid of insects and rodents with a minimal amount of risk to your health and your home:

1. **Seal Cracks**

The first defense is making sure pests don't get into the house. Annually inspect the foundation and siding to identify the holes or cracks that need to be sealed. Be particularly careful to seal around exterior plumbing and electrical outlets.

2. **Use Screens**

Window screens are excellent for keeping insects of the house. Replace or repair any damaged screens on windows and doors. Also, make sure that windows and doors have good weather stripping and are sealed well.

3. **Control Lighting**

Many insects are attracted to light. Good design and careful use of exterior lights is important to prevent insect problems. Minimize the attraction time by turning on exterior lights only when needed. Use yellow bulbs in exterior light fixtures as flies and moths are less attracted to yellow than to white bulbs.

4. **Manage Garbage**

Keep garbage in sturdy, tightly covered and regularly washed containers. This prevents flies from breeding and reduces the attraction for insects. Avoid letting clothes, papers and other similar materials from accumulating in storage rooms as these provide good breeding sites and hiding places for pests.

5. **Eliminate Damp Conditions**

Wet or rotting wood in the house structure or near the foundation can attract certain insects. Replace wood that has softened due to exposure to water infiltrations in a roof or a wall.

6. **Vacuum Regularly**

Regular vacuuming and cleaning lessens the likelihood of pest invasions. Remember to change vacuum bags, since they can act as a breeding ground for pests.