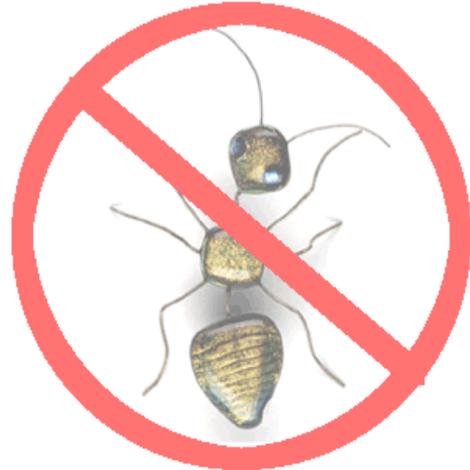


Pest Control

Ants

- **Ant Hills** - First, mix equal parts confectioners' sugar and laundry borax. Next, scatter the mixture over a piece of wood near the site of the ant nest. The ants will be attracted to the sugar and poisoned by the laundry borax.

- **Keeping Ants Out of your Cabinets** - Hang sprigs of dried tansy, rue, or pennyroyal. Tape the stems to the front edge of your cabinet shelves.



- **Keeping Ants Outside** - If you can find where ants are walking into your home, sprinkle laundry borax, chili powder, or dried mint across the path. Also, plant mint near doors and windows. You can also keep ants out of your home by sprinkling grits along the baseboard, or placing grits in a shallow dish near where you see ants. Ants like grits, but the grits will swell up inside them and kill. This method of treatment is safe if you have children in the house.

- **Ants in the Garden** - If you have an ant hill in the garden, pour some ammonia onto it and on the ground surrounding it.

Carpet Beetles

- **Controlling Those Carpet Beetles** - While carpet beetles are difficult to get rid of completely, you can keep them under control by spreading laundry borax along the edges of the carpets.

Cockroaches

- **Controlling Cockroaches** - There are two homemade remedies that will help control cockroaches. One, create a mixture of equal parts cocoa powder, flour, and laundry borax. Then, place it around the house in shallow dishes. Two, create a mixture of equal parts confectioners' sugar and baking soda. Then, place it around the house in shallow dishes.

Note: Keep either of these mixtures away from children and pets.

Fleas

- **Safe Flea Treatment** - Unscented talcum powder can be used on pets to safely control fleas.

General

- **Grease Factor** - Many insect pests thrive on grease. Store nothing that isn't free of grease and stains.
- **Invest in a Sprayer** - If you have a garden, you must invest in a hand-held sprayer. Mixing your own insecticides will save you a lot of money.
- **Garlic Deters Insects** - You can use water and a little garlic powder in a mist sprayer to treat house plants. Believe it or not, this will keep many insect pests at bay.
- **A Substitute for Insect Sprays** - If you don't have an insect spray handy, but you need to bring down some pests, use a can of hair spray on them. This immobilizes the insects making them easier to kill with a swatter.
- **Removing a Stinger** - If you are stung by a bee or wasp, don't attempt to remove it by squeezing. This will only inject more venom into the wound. Instead, scrape out the stingers with a dull knife or your fingernail.
- **Taking the Pain Out of Stings** - You can reduce the pain and swelling from an insect sting by applying meat tenderizer to the affected areas that has been dampened with a little water.
- **Insects Love Perfume** - If you are outdoors a lot of the time, do not wear perfume. Insects are attracted to the scent.
- **Preventing Insects** - The key to keeping insect pests out of your kitchen is to deny them food. Keep sinks, counters and cabinets spotless. Clean garbage cans regularly and secure the lids.
- **Limitations for Bug Zappers** - Electric bug zappers are ineffective on most stinging and biting insects like wasps and mosquitos.
- **Avoid All-Purpose Sprays** - It is best to avoid all-purpose insect sprays. Certain chemicals are necessary to kill certain pests. Often, generic sprays lack the one ingredient you need most.
- **Choose Hiking Clothes Carefully** - Bright-colored clothing often attracts many kinds of insects. When hiking, choose pants and shirts with subdued colors.
- **Colors Attract Bees** - To avoid problems with bee stings, don't go outside with bright clothes

- **Easing the Pain of Bee Stings** - What child hasn't been stung by a bee or wasp at one time or another? To ease the pain, mix a teaspoon of unseasoned meat tenderizer with a few drops of water to make a paste, then place this on the injury. This will give your child almost instantaneous relief since an enzyme in meat tenderizer dissolves the toxins that the insect has injected with its stinger. A similar application of baking soda is a good second choice. Remove the stinger by carefully lifting it up with a clean fingernail or dull blade of some type then scraping gently.

Moths

- **Moth Alert** - Moth larvae cause more damage to clothing and home furnishings each year in the United States than house fires. Cedar and lavender are natural deterrents to moths and are non-toxic. However, these will not kill larvae already present in clothing. Any moth infestation should be treated right away. Dry clean woolens and other fabrics where you discover small holes. Throw away articles that cannot be salvaged.

Mosquitos

- **Mosquitos** - Eliminate breeding grounds for mosquitoes around your house - pools of stagnant water. Dump out buckets and other containers. Periodically check to be sure that your gutters are clear and don't have pools of water that are harboring mosquito larvae.
- **Feeding Time** - The time of day to use mosquito repellents or to stay indoors and avoid these pests is early in the morning and one or two hours after sunset.
- **Treating Mosquito Bites** - If your family is outside for long periods of time, they are more than likely going to get a few mosquito bites. Try treating the bites with ice and follow with a simple application of calamine lotion. These are old remedies, but they tend to work.

Ticks

- **Lyme Disease and Ticks** - When parents see a tick on their child, they often panic due to the amount of media attention given to lyme disease. But in reality, not all ticks carry the disease and a tick generally has to be on your child for 24 to 48 hours in order to successfully transmit the dread organism. For safety's sake, however, you might want to place the tick in a small jar of alcohol and keep it for a few days. If any suspicious signs of infection appear around the bite area, you could then take the tick to the doctor's office and have it tested for lyme disease.
- **Removing a Tick** - You need tweezers to safely remove a tick from your child's skin. Grasp the insect at the mouth area and not it's body. You want to prevent the jaws from being left inside the skin. Treat the area with an antiseptic just as soon as the tick is removed.