

There are many creatures that we may regard as pests; they are basically those creatures that interfere with the enjoyment of our lifestyle. They have taken advantage of the way we live or work and the way we store our food.

Unfortunately, these pests can have a sinister side to them. They carry disease. The disease transmission may be biological, ie play a specific role in the life cycle of disease organisms, or it may be through passive means, ie transport of disease organisms from infected areas and onto food. Cockroaches and flies have been known to carry diseases such as Typhoid, Tuberculosis, salmonella poisoning, hepatitis and dysentery. Mosquitoes have been known to spread Encephalitis, Dengue Fever, Malaria, Ross River Fever. Rats and mice also contaminate food through direct contact and transportation of disease organisms, or the transport of other pests capable of spreading disease, such as the flea. The best way to limit pests in your home is to make them feel unwelcome by removing their shelter and making access to their food difficult. The following pests are the most commonly encountered around the house. We trust that the information in this fact sheet will assist in controlling pests and provide alternatives to prevent these pests causing problems in and around the house.

Pest	Prevention	Control	Repellent
<b>Ants</b>	Increase hygiene, detect and destroy nests, seal food storage containers and remove food scraps and crumbs from dining areas promptly	Use pyrethrins and borax dust. Use boron by mixing 1 to 1 with a naturally appealing food such as honey, animal fat, peanut butter, etc. Treat nests with kerosene or boiling water	Spearmint, peppermint, pennyroyal, citronella, red pepper, cut lemon, dried cucumber peel
<b>Cockroaches</b>	Seal all cracks and entry points in walls and cupboards, install flyscreens, improve hygiene, remove rubbish located around the house and relocate compost piles away from the house, keep garbage cans and kitchen tidies well sealed, provide good ventilation and plenty of light	Use baits with synthetic pyrethroid or borax and pyrethrin sprays. Regularly clean cupboards with hot soapy water as well as limiting confined areas near to heat sources such as stoves, refrigerator motors, etc	Tea tree leaves, cloves, increase light and ventilation, leave cucumber ends in cupboard until they shrivel
<b>Fleas</b>	Vacuum carpets regularly, keep pets outside, allow access of sunshine to heat rooms	Premises and pets should be treated at the same time. Use pyrethroid or pyrethrin sprays, thorough vacuuming	Tea tree, fennel, lavender, mint, citronella, pennyroyal, rue, tansy
<b>Flies</b>	Flyscreens, hygiene, encourage natural predators such as birds and spiders, use covered compost bins, dispose of rubbish effectively	Fly traps, pyrethrins, use flyswats.	Mint, basil, tomatoes, rue, tansy, eucalyptus oil, citronella, peppermint, lavender
<b>Lice</b>	Do not swap clothes or hats, improve personal hygiene. Keep long hair neat and tied back in children when at school	Frequent washing in hot soapy water, use fine-toothed hair combs. Also use your chemist for advice.	Spearmint, peppermint, pennyroyal, thyme, basil

Pest	Prevention	Control	Repellent
<b>Moths/Weevils</b>	Seal all food containers, keep clothes clean and well ventilated. Moths prefer animals products such as wool, felt and hair, so these should be removed.	Expose clothes to sunlight. Put clothes through dryer. Do not use mothballs or flakes as naphthalene may be hazardous.	Garlic, crushed bay leaves, lavender, rosemary, mint, dried orange peel. Cedar-lined cupboards and chests.
<b>Mosquitoes</b>	Flyscreens; drain stagnant water in areas such as roof guttering; empty containers, old tyres etc. Introduce fish or frogs to ponds.	Garlic and derris sprays, pyrethrins	Lavender, pennyroyal, camphor, tea tree, citronella, rosemary, sage, mint, basil, castor oil. A few drops of Detol in baby oil has been used as a repellent.
<b>Rats/Mice</b>	Use metal flashings across building cavities, remove possible nesting sites, improve hygiene, empty pet bowls after feeding	Traps or grain baits along rat and mice tracks. Keep cats or terrier dogs.	Scatter peppermint and pennyroyal leaves, lavender and camphor
<b>Silverfish</b>	Improve hygiene, increase ventilation and light	Pyrethroids, regular vacuuming	
<b>Snakes</b>	Remove rubbish accumulations near the house. Keep yards free from long grass.	Snakes are protected and should not be killed. Contact WIRES for assistance in relocating snakes.	
<b>Spiders</b>	Flyscreens, improve hygiene, remove debris and rockeries, avoid leaving toys and shoes outside	Remove with vacuum cleaner or broom. Pour boiling water into burrows. Don't remove harmless varieties as they control other pest populations.	
<b>Ticks</b>	Keep yard areas free from long grass	Inspect pets and family after entering bush or grassy areas and remove ticks	Citronella, thyme, sage, pennyroyal, rue, garlic

### Disclaimers

This Fact Sheet was believed to be correct at the date of its approval.

This Fact Sheet is for general information purposes only.