



HOME & GARDEN

Home and Garden information center • 12005 Homewood Road • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

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Indoor and Outdoor Pest Tips

INDOOR PESTS

- Termite and ant reproductives are actively swarming inside and outside many houses. The termites are dark brown, about ¼ inch long with 4 long wings of equal length and a fluttery flight habit. See our fact sheet on termites for additional information. For control of ants try using bait stations or liquid baits to control minor infestations. See HG 7, “Ants and their Control” for additional information.
- Fleas are sometimes observed in homes even where there are no pets. The most likely source is an animal such as a raccoon living in the attic, crawl space, fireplace chimney or some other sheltered area connected to the inside of the home. Fleas are 1/16 to 1/8 inch long, brownish black in color. They are wingless but strong jumpers and they bite. See HG 27, “Fleas” for additional information.
- Pantry Pests - Indian meal moths are a common problem of grains and grain products, cereals, birdseeds, dried pet food, etc. The Indian meal moth is about 5/8 inch long with outer wings that are reddish-copper colored. You may see adults flying, larvae crawling or webbing. Remove the source of the infestation and clean all jars and containers that are affected. Store food in airtight plastic or glass containers, or in the freezer. Also inspect stored bird seed, pet food and dried foods for infestations. Vacuum the shelves and then wash the cupboards with warm soapy water. Do not use insecticides to control these pests.

OUTDOOR INSECTS

- Ticks are very active now.. Wear light colored clothing and get in the habit of checking yourself, your children and pets closely for ticks after spending time outdoors. Repellents are also effective at keeping ticks at bay. Deer tick populations (also known as Black legged ticks) are especially high around the Chesapeake Bay.
- Boxelder bugs that over-wintered in your home are trying to get out now. They are red and black insects that are harmless and can be vacuumed or swept up. Prevent their return to your house next fall by sealing up all small holes and cracks around the outside of your home. No chemical controls are recommended. See HG,10, “Boxelder Bugs” for additional information.

Have a pest or gardening question?

Call the Home and Garden Information Center

800-342-2507 www.hgic.umd.edu

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