



# HOME & GARDEN

HOME AND GARDEN INFORMATION CENTER • 12005 HOMEWOOD ROAD • ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

## Indoor and Outdoor Pest Tips - December 2008

### Indoor

- You may notice insects and spiders emerging from around your Christmas tree. They came in unnoticed on your tree. Simply escort them outside or vacuum.
- Miscellaneous beetles, like long-horned beetles and bark beetles may emerge from firewood stored inside the home. These are nuisance pests; they are not a threat to the wood in your home. You can also prevent pests from coming into the house by storing firewood outside the house.
- You may notice large, brown humpbacked crickets with long antennae that don't chirp. These are camel or cave crickets and are attracted to damp, dark locations in the home. Exclude them as you would other nuisance pests by sealing up openings around foundations, doors and windows – dehumidify basement if possible.
- Ticks remain active as long as daytime temperatures are above 50°F. Keep grass and weeds mowed and move bird feeders to the edges of your yard to minimize tick problems. Check yourself and loved ones closely for ticks after hiking or camping.
- Pantry pests, like Indian meal moths, cigarette beetles, and sawtooth grain beetles may be found around windows trying to get out of your home. No chemical controls are recommended for pantry pests. Discard infested products and vacuum and clean the area around the infestation with soapy water. Pests can be swept up or vacuumed.
- Cluster flies resemble large houseflies and may suddenly appear around window or lamps in the fall, winter or spring. They occupy attics or wall voids and become active on warm, sunny days. Prevent their entry by sealing up all small holes and cracks around the outside of your home.
- Grain mites are very small, 8 legged creatures that are light colored and resemble dust. They often feed on pet foods and treats and may come into the home on any type of milled food product. Discard infested products and vacuum and clean the area around the infestation with soapy water.
- Praying mantid egg cases are light brown masses that are glued to twigs around the landscape. Leave them alone and don't attempt to rear them indoors. These beneficial insects will hatch out

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next spring.

## **Pesticides**

- Avoid storing pesticides over the winter in sheds and garages. Cold temperatures can cause these materials to become ineffective. If you have questions about the efficacy of your pesticides call the manufacturer, using the phone number listed on the label, or call the National Pesticide Information Center 1-800-858-7378.
- Be sure to store all pesticides in a place where they will not freeze. Cold temperatures can cause these materials to become ineffective. When applying pesticides, including lawn herbicides, be sure to read and follow all label directions. If you have questions about the efficacy of your pesticides call the manufacturer, using the phone number listed on the label.

**Have a pest or gardening question?**  
**Call The Home and Garden Information Center**  
**1-800-342-2507      [www.hgic.umd.edu](http://www.hgic.umd.edu)**