



HOME & GARDEN

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

October 2009

Indoor and Outdoor Pest Tips

Indoor

- Its fall, and many insects such as crickets, stink bugs, Lady bird beetles, boxelder bugs, cluster flies, elm leaf beetles and other innocuous insects will attempt to enter your home this fall for protection. Caulk, weather strip and seal up all cracks and entry points around your house foundation, vent openings, windows and doorways to prevent these critters from coming indoors. Sweep them up or vacuum large populations, but do not treat with pesticides.

Outdoor

- Hornets and wasps, including yellow jackets, will remain active until we have a hard freeze. Yellow jackets are especially aggressive this time of year. If you must destroy a yellow jacket nest in the ground, mark the location with a stick or rock during daylight and return on a cool night with a can of wasp and hornet killer and a flash light. Direct the insecticide into the opening of the nest. If necessary you may need to repeat the process the following evening. Nests in high or unobtrusive locations should be left alone. Nests in wall voids should be evaluated and treated by a professional pest control company.
- Ticks remain active as long as daytime temperatures are above freezing. 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.
- Carpenter ants tend to nest in wood that has been previously damaged by wood rots or insects. You must locate the nest to control this pest. Try using bait stations to control minor infestations of indoor ants. Granular insecticides or bait stations labeled for outdoor use on ants are also available.
- Now that you may be bringing in bountiful harvests from the garden and orchard, fruit flies can be a problem in kitchens where fruits and vegetables are stored on counters.. Keep compost bucket lids covered.

Hazardous Household Wastes

- Check with your county/city recycling office to learn about amnesty days at local landfills for household hazardous wastes including pesticides. Check pesticide containers for leaks and cracks. Also check containers that are old, have been stored improperly or were exposed to extreme temperatures. Call the manufacturer's phone number on the container for assistance with these types of problems or contact the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network at 1-800-858-7378.

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.

Have a pest or gardening question? Call the Home and Garden Information Center

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

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