

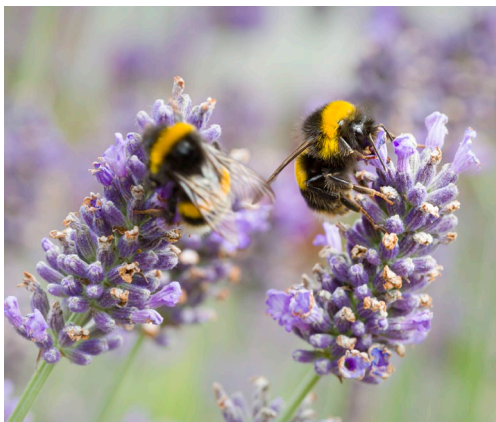


PEST CONTROL

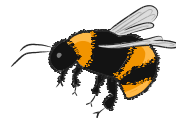
HOW TO PREVENT UNWANTED VISITORS IN YOUR HOME!



Pests such as bees, mice, rats, and various insects can cause considerable damage to your home and health! Recognising the signs early and implementing effective prevention strategies are important in helping to maintain a pest-free home. This guide helps to identify, prevent, and deal with common household pests.



BEES



Signs of a Bees Nest:

- Noticing increased bee activity around a specific area.
- Visible nests in lofts, eaves, walls, or trees.
- Buzzing sounds within walls or ceilings.

Tips to avoid attracting bees:

- Keep sweet foods and drinks covered, especially outdoors.
- Plant bee-repelling plants like mint and eucalyptus close to your home, to prevent them nesting.

Prevention of bees nesting in or around your home:

- Sealing Entry Points: Ensure all potential entry points, such as cracks and holes in walls and around windows, are sealed.
- Regular Inspections: Regularly inspect lofts, and outdoor areas including your roof for signs of nests.
- Professional Removal: If a nest is found, do not attempt to remove it yourself. Contact a local apiary or professional pest control service to safely remove the nest. **Bees are a protected species.**

MICE/RATS



Signs of Mice/Rats:

- Droppings found around food packages, in drawers, or under sinks.
- Gnaw marks on furniture, walls, or especially food packaging ripped open.
- Rustling or scratching noises in walls or ceilings, especially at night.
- Nests made from shredded paper, fabric, or plant material found in your home.

Tips to avoid attracting Mice/Rats:

- Regularly clean under appliances and furniture.
- Keep rubbish sealed and dispose of it regularly.

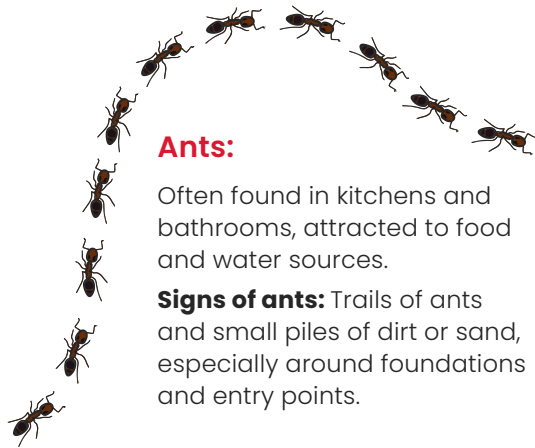
Prevention of Mice/Rats being in your home:

- Seal gaps and holes around entry points such as the foundations, doors, windows, and where utilities enter the home.
- Keep food in sealed containers and clean up any spills promptly.
- Reduce clutter in storage areas to minimise nesting sites.
- Use mouse traps or baits in areas where you seen signs of mice or rats. Be conscious of the type of trap and bait you use; pets and wildlife can also be poisoned if they were to eat the pest after ingestion. For severe infestations, professional pest control may be necessary.



COMMON HOUSEHOLD INSECTS

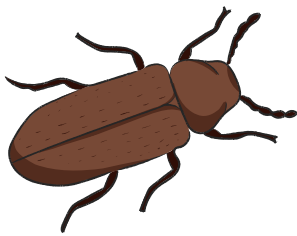
and signs of infestation:



Ants:

Often found in kitchens and bathrooms, attracted to food and water sources.

Signs of ants: Trails of ants and small piles of dirt or sand, especially around foundations and entry points.



Woodworms:

This is a collective term for various wood-boring beetles whose larvae can damage wood by infesting it.

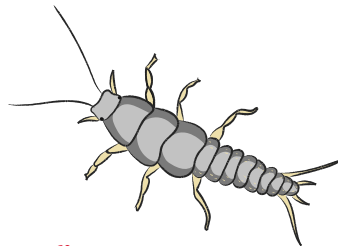
Signs of woodworms: Look for small, round exit holes, fine powdery sawdust (frass), and weakened or crumbling wood. You might also hear faint tapping sounds from active larvae.

Cockroaches:

Typically found in dark, damp areas like kitchens and bathrooms.

Signs of cockroaches:

Droppings, egg cases, musty odour, and sightings usually at night.



Silverfish:

Despite their name, these are not fish, but small scavenger insects. They are lesser-known pests, that feed on starch and microscopic mould found on paper.

Signs of silverfish: These are silvery-grey insects in damp, dark areas like bathrooms and basements. Notice yellowish stains, scales, tiny faeces, and damage to paper or clothing. Increased sightings at night and a musty odour also indicate their presence.



Spiders:

Prefer dark, undisturbed areas such as basements, lofts, and cupboards, but can be found in any room of your home.

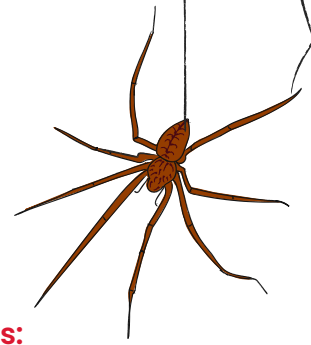
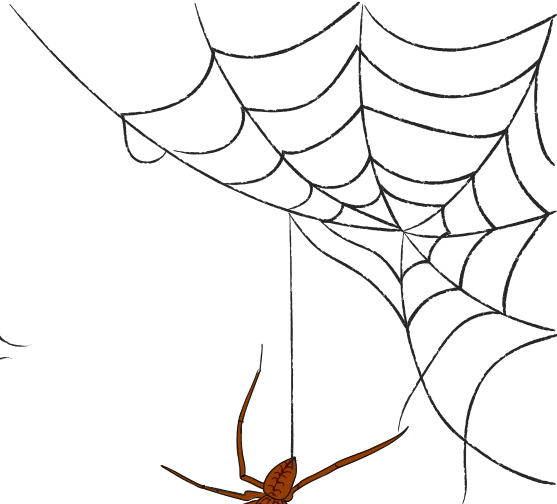
Signs of spiders: Webs in corners, ceilings, and other undisturbed areas.



Moths:

Moths are known to lay their eggs in clothes and carpets, leading to degradation over time.

Signs of moths: Small moths flying around causing tiny holes in clothes, silky webs in closets, and larvae or frass near infested items. Musty smells can also indicate an infestation.



Prevention & management:

Seal Entry Points: Caulk cracks and crevices around doors, windows, and foundations.

Proper Food Storage and maintain a clean kitchen: Store food in sealed containers and clean up spills and crumbs promptly.

Reduce Moisture: Fix leaky pipes, use dehumidifiers, and ensure proper ventilation.

Keep a tidy home, with regular cleaning: Vacuum regularly, especially in corners and under furniture. Try to reduce clutter where possible, as this can be used as the perfect hiding place or home for insects.

Professional Treatment: For severe infestations, contact a professional pest control service for effective treatment.



As this guide highlights, it's important to try and maintain a clean, clutter free home to prevent pest infestations. Using sealed rubbish bins and disposing of waste regularly helps minimise the risk of attracting pests. Additionally, keeping your garden and the surroundings of your home clean reduces potential hiding spots for pests on your property.

Regular inspect your home for potential entry points or damp or moist areas where pest thrive most. Following the tips included in the guide will hopefully prevent pests living in your home, rent free and causing unwanted damage.

Home insurance typically covers damage caused by unexpected and accidental events. However, damage caused by pests is usually considered preventable and therefore unlikely to be covered.

Maintaining a pest-free home requires vigilance and proactive measures. By understanding the signs of common pests and implementing prevention strategies, you can protect your home from damage and reduce health risks. Remember, if you encounter a severe infestation, professional pest control services are the best course of action. Additionally, link your pest control efforts with your home insurance to ensure you have the necessary cover for unexpected issues.