



*Allan & Chris Bryan servicing Coffs Harbour & surrounding areas.
Ph: 0428 693 273 a/h: 6658 7805*

Tips on managing pests in your home

Pests enter your home because it offers warmth, food and moisture. If we can eliminate all of these, or reduce the availability of them from your home, you are on your way to making it less desirable for them. We cannot exterminate or control all pests but we can try and manage them. The more informed you are about pests the better prepared you will be. By working together, you and your pest technician will have a better chance of managing pests in your home. This is called “Integrated Pest Management.”

Good house keeping makes pest management easier: the cleaner the home, the less attractive it is to pests. The following information will help you in and around your home.

Cockroaches

Besides being unsightly, cockroaches carry diseases, contaminate food and utensils and cause other health issues because of droppings, vomiting etc.

The most common cockroach found in the kitchen is the German cockroach – light brown and only 12mm to 15mm long. A kitchen can offer all the right ingredients for an infestation.

Others including the large American and Australian cockroach can be found throughout your home in various places including subfloors, wall and ceiling voids, garages, gardens and play areas. Many can fly in warmer weather. To control cockroaches in your home it is best to:

- Keep the kitchen clean; don't leave out food and crumbs, wipe up water and spills, don't leave dishes draining overnight.
- Put food into sealed containers
- Seal up all cracks and crevices under sinks, around pipes and in skirting boards etc. This is where cockroaches can harbour and gain access.
- Repair water leaks, no matter how small.
- Clean around drains.
- Remove rubbish and leaf litter from around your home.

Spiders

Spiders have the 'fear factor'. Most are not poisonous or not large enough to pierce your skin but there are some, such as the redback or whitetail spider, that can cause health problems. Most spiders are nocturnal. They come out at night in search of food, or in the case of web-spinning spiders, construct webs to snare prey. There are some things you can do to help reduce the number of spiders and the risk of being bitten.

- Vacuuming is one of the best ways. It doesn't just remove the spider, but it also removes any eggs and the web.
- Replacing exterior lighting with non insect attracting yellow lights will reduce their food source, meaning fewer spiders and webs around entrances, pergolas etc.
- Wear gloves when gardening or removing rubbish.
- Don't leave clothing on the floor.
- Don't leave toys and other such articles lying around outside overnight.

Fleas

The most common flea is the cat and dog flea. When the conditions are warm and humid as in summer, we can experience a population explosion and when this happens it is usually beyond the homeowner to manage. To rid your home and pets of fleas it is important to break the life cycle. In normal conditions this can take up to two weeks. To reduce the risk of a flea infestation the pet owner can put in place a management program.

- Pets and their bedding must be treated and washed regularly. Every two weeks when infestation occurs.
- Consult your vet for the best advice on a flea treatment programme.
- Thorough vacuuming of carpet, rugs and areas your pet visits.
- Discard or spray the vacuum bag with an insecticide after vacuuming infected areas.
- Subfloor areas should be made inaccessible to your pets as they often offer a very suitable environment for flea breeding.
- Lawns mowed regularly and discard clippings if infestation occurs.

Ants

Locating and directly treating the nest can provide the most effective, longer-term control; however this not always possible. Ants are able to access homes very easily and protecting it is very difficult. The best way to manage ants is by managing their food supply. A high level of hygiene is required in your home, what may appear to be clean of any food to us may still be attractive to something the size of an ant.

- Keep the kitchen area clean. Don't leave out food and crumbs. Wipe up water and spills.
- Put food in sealed containers.
- Wipe up excess food sources from the top of bottles and jars.
- Wash pet food bowls regularly.

The information above also applies to most pests. If you seal up entry points, harbourages and clean up food sources you have already begun your own pest management program.

If you have any questions just ring Allan or Chris.