

## **Homemade Pest Control**

Written by Administrator

Friday, 10 June 2011 07:29 - Last Updated Friday, 10 June 2011 08:10

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Keeping our homes safe and clean includes keeping them free from household pests but also limiting the use of potentially harmful chemicals.

The following are safer alternatives to control insects and other pests around your home. The items marked with an asterisk (\*) are NOT non-toxic but are safer alternatives to widely used chemical preparations.

Helpful predators around the home include frogs, spiders, ladybugs, praying mantis, and dragonflies. Keeping these beneficial creatures around can help you reduce pest populations.

### **Ants**

#### **Vinegar**

Wash countertops, cabinets, and floor with equal parts vinegar and water to deter ant infestations.

#### **Flour and Borax\***

Mix 1 cup flour and 2 cups borax in a quart jar. Punch holes in the jar lid. Sprinkle the contents around the house foundation. Keep borax out of the reach of children and pets.

#### **Bonemeal or Powdered Charcoal or Lemon**

Set up barriers where ants are entering. They will generally not cross lines of bonemeal or powdered charcoal. If you can find a hole where ants are entering the house, squeeze the juice of a lemon in the hole or crack. Then slice up the lemon and put the peeling all around the entrance.

#### **Pennyroyal\*, Spearmint, Southern-wood, and Tansy**

Growing these plants around the border of your home will deter ants and the aphids they carry.

### **Fleas**

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### **Vacuum**

Vacuum. Vacuum, remove the vacuum bag, seal it, and dispose of it immediately outside your home.

### **Vinegar**

A ratio of 1 teaspoon vinegar to 1 quart water (per 40 pounds of pet weight) in their drinking water helps to keep your pets free of fleas and ticks.

### **Fennel, Rosemary, Red Cedar Shavings\*, Sassafras\*, Eucalyptus\*, or Pennyroyal\***

Spread leaves or shavings of these plants under and around the pet's bed. **Flies**

### **Prevention**

Keep kitchen garbage tightly closed. Sprinkle dry soap or borax into garbage cans after they've been washed and allowed to dry; it acts as a repellent.

### **Oranges**

Scratch the skin of an orange and leave it out; the citrus acts as a repellent.

### **Cloves**

Hang clusters of cloves to repel flies.

### **Mint and Basil**

Mint planted around the home repels flies. A pot of basil set on the windowsill or table helps to repel fleas. Keep basil well-watered from the bottom so that it produces a stronger scent. Dried ground leaves left in small bowls or hung in muslin bags are also effective.

### **Sugar and Corn Syrup**

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Make your own fly paper by boiling sugar, corn syrup, and water together. Place mixture onto brown paper and hang or set out.

### Mice

#### Mashed potato powder or buds

Place instant mashed potato powder or buds in strategic places with a dish of water close by. After eating the powder or buds mice will need water. This causes fatal bloating. Mouse traps are another option.

### Moles

#### Castor Oil\* and Liquid Detergent

Whip together 1 tablespoon castor oil and 2 tablespoons liquid detergent in a blender until the mixture is like shaving cream. Add 6 tablespoons water and whip again. Keep this mixture out of the reach of your children and pets. Take a garden sprinkling can and fill with warm water. Add 2 tablespoons of the oil mixture and stir. Sprinkle immediately over the areas of greatest mole infestation. For best results, apply after a rain or thorough watering. If moles are drawn to your lawn because of the grubs feeding in the soil, you may be able to rid yourself of both pests by spreading milky spore disease to kill the grubs.

### Mosquitoes

#### Prevention

Encourage natural predators such as dragonflies or praying mantises. Eliminate pools of stagnant water. Avoid wearing perfume, bright colors, flowery prints, and bright jewelry as these items attract mosquitoes.

#### Citronella

Burn citronella candles to repel insects.

#### Tansy or Basil

Tansy or Basil. Plant tansy or basil around the patio and house to repel mosquitoes.

### Moth

#### Prevention

If you can see moths, these aren't the ones to worry about. Moths that cause damage to

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clothes are too small to notice. It is the larvae of these moths that eat fabric. Store items in a clean condition; moth larvae especially like areas soiled with food stains.

### **Rosemary, Mint, Thyme, Cloves, and Ginseng (optional)**

Use 1/2 pound rosemary, 1/2 pound mint, 1/4 pound thyme, 1/4 pound ginseng (optional), and 2 tablespoons cloves. Mix and put in cheesecloth bags and place in closets or drawers.

Dried Lavender or Rosemary and Mint

Make sachets of dried lavender or equal portions of rosemary and mint. Place in closets, drawers, or closed containers to mothproof garments.

### **Rosemary, Sage, Mint, Dried Lemon Peel, and Cinnamon**

Mix handfuls of first three ingredients. Add a little lemon peel and a pinch of cinnamon. Place in muslin bags.

### **Molasses, Vinegar, and Yellow Container**

To trap moths, mix 1 pan molasses with 2 pans vinegar and place in a yellow container to attract moths. Clean regularly.

### **Clothes Dryer**

Kill moth eggs by running garment through a warm dryer.

## **Roaches**

### **Prevention**

Close off all gaps around pipes and electric lines where they enter the house by using cement or screening. Caulk small cracks along baseboards, walls, cupboards, and around pipes, sinks, and bathtub fixtures. Seal food tightly. Rinse food off dishes that are left overnight. Do not leave pet food out overnight.

### **Hedge Apples (Osage Orange)**

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Cut hedge apples in half and place several in the basement, around in cabinets, or under the house to repel roaches.

### **Flour, Cocoa Powder, and Borax\***

Mix together 2 tablespoons flour, 4 tablespoons borax, and 1 tablespoon cocoa. Set the mixture out in dishes. CAUTION: Borax is toxic if eaten. Keep out of reach of children and pets.

### **Borax\* and Flour**

Mix 1/2 cup borax and 1/4 cup flour and fill a glass jar. Punch small holes in jar lid. Sprinkle powder along baseboards and doorsills. Caution: Borax is toxic if eaten. This recipe may not be for you if there are young children or pets in the house.

### **Oatmeal, Flour, and Plaster of Paris**

Mix equal parts and set in dishes. Keep out of reach of children and pets.

### **Baking Soda and Powdered Sugar**

Mix equal parts and spread around infested area.

## **Slugs And Snails**

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### **Natural Predators**

Gardener snakes, grass snakes, ground beetles, box turtles, salamanders, ducks, and larvae of lightning bugs all feed on snails.

### **Clay Pots**

Place overturned clay flower pots near the shady side of a plant. Rest one edge on a small twig or make sure that the ground is irregular enough for the slugs and snails to crawl under the rim. They will collect there during the warmest part of the day. Remove slugs and snails regularly and drop in a bucket of soapy water.

### **Sand, Lime, or Ashes**

Snails avoid protective borders of sand, lime, or ashes.

### **Tin Can**

Protect young plants by encircling them with a tin can with both ends removed. Push the bottom end of the can into the soil.