

Controlling Insects

Mosquitoes

- ◆ Empty all containers of standing water and cover them, including cans, children's toys, tires, potted plants, and buckets. Cover openings in rain barrels.
- ◆ Stay indoors as much as possible between dusk and dawn.
- ◆ When outdoors, wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- ◆ When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET.

Fire ants

- ◆ Stay out of flood water that may contain floating mats of fire ants. If you are in a boat, do not touch ants with the oars. If you must work in flood water, wear rubber boots, rain gear and cuffed gloves so fire ants cannot reach your skin.
- ◆ To kill floating ants, spray them with 2 ounces of Dove® dishwashing liquid mixed with 1 gallon of water.
- ◆ Be very cautious after a flood. Fire ants can be almost anywhere—under debris, in furniture, under carpet.
- ◆ Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes to protect yourself. Spray your shoes and lower pants legs with an insect repellent that contains DEET.
- ◆ If you are using a shovel or other tool, spread talcum or baby powder on the handle to keep fire ants from climbing it.
- ◆ Treat ants with a fast-acting household or lawn and garden insecticide. Aerosol products containing pyrethrins or pyrethrum (tetramethrin or allethrin) labeled for use on “ants” or “crawling insects” will kill the ants quickly. Spray as many of the ants as possible. Also spray surfaces and cracks of infested objects and debris. Do not use these sprays on ponds.
- ◆ Do not use fire ant baits immediately after a flood.

- ◆ If you are stung, use an over-the-counter medicine for insect stings or bites. Home remedies include ammonia, meat tenderizer, tea tree oil, camphor, and a 50:50 solution of bleach and water. If you have an allergic reaction (shortness of breath, unusual swelling of the sting area or nausea) get medical help right away.

Houseflies

- ◆ Put food waste and other organic matter in garbage bags and tie the bags securely. Do not let food residue accumulate in your garbage can. Clean the can regularly.
- ◆ Patch damaged window screens and keep doors closed.
- ◆ Place sticky traps, ultraviolet light traps, or resin strips (fly strips) around your home. Put fly strips within 6 feet of the floor.
- ◆ Use fly baits such as Quick-Bayt® and Golden Malrin®. Spray insecticides that contain pyrethrins will also control houseflies.

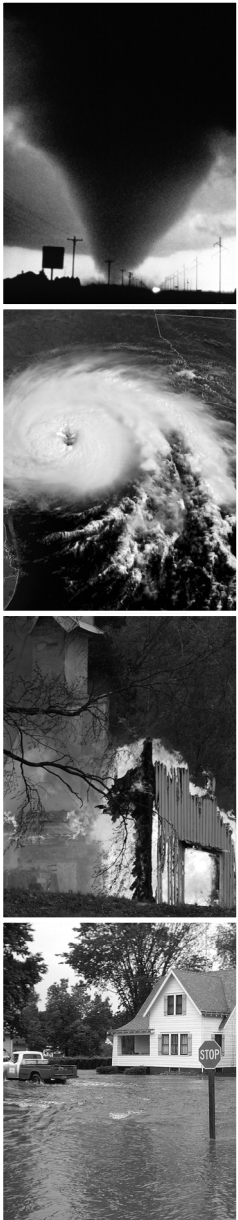
Blow flies

- ◆ Quickly dispose of decomposing animal remains where blow flies might lay eggs. Bury dead birds, cats, dogs, opossums, etc., at least 12 inches deep or place them in tightly closed garbage bags.
- ◆ Remove all food residue from your garbage can and keep it clean.
- ◆ Place sticky traps and ultraviolet light traps around your home.
- ◆ Patch damaged window screens and keep doors closed.
- ◆ Use insecticide sprays that contain pyrethrins.

Insect repellents

- ◆ Check the container to make sure the product has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Never use a product that is not approved by the EPA.

continued



Controlling Insects continued

- ◆ Read and follow the directions on the product label.
- ◆ Do not apply an insect repellent on cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.
- ◆ On young children, do not apply an insect repellent on the hands or near the eyes or mouth. Instead, apply it to your own hands and then put it on the child.
- ◆ Do not spray in small enclosed areas. Avoid breathing the spray or using it near food.
- ◆ Use just enough repellent to cover your clothing and/or exposed skin.
- ◆ Wash your hands after applying repellent.
- ◆ Use a repellent that contains DEET.

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