



## How to **pest-proof** your home

Many nearby native insects and vermin find shelter in the hidden or neglected areas of your home. You can prevent a majority of invasions by doing maintenance checks and adopting precautionary habits.

One common denominator is easy access to food. In order to avoid attracting flies, cockroaches, ants, bees and rodents:

- keep pet food off the ground in raised dishes;
- store leftovers and ingredients in tightly sealed containers or plastic bags;
- keep ripening fruits and vegetables off the counter and in the refrigerator;
- clean out trash cans with a water hose frequently;
- make sure all food stored in the pantry is sealed and thrown out once it expires; and
- place a cinnamon stick or bay leaf in containers with rice or grain (the scent deters beetles and moths).

Keep small pests from entering through wall and floor cracks, utility openings and under doors by:

- installing door sweeps or thresholds at the base of every doorway;
- sealing utility accesses where wires and pipes enter from the outside;
- using silicone or acrylic latex caulk to repair cracks around doors and windows; and
- installing wire mesh over vents in the attic, roof and crawl spaces.

You might also consider planting native flowers and shrubs which repel pests. Large trees encourage birds and bats which prey on insects around your home.

To hear more about protecting your home or finding an even better fit for you, give me a call today!