

PEST CONTROL AND WEED ABATEMENT GUIDANCE

PEST CONTROL

1. ANTS

WHAT TO DO TO KEEP ANTS OUT

- Seal cracks and crevices around the exterior of the building with caulk that can provide entry.
- Keep vegetation at least 1 foot away from the building and foundation to prevent access.
- Remove or regularly tend to aphid-infested bushes and ripened fruit on trees.
- Regularly clean the inside of garbage and recycling cans.
- Install exterior bait stations where colonies are located.

WHAT TO DO WHEN ANTS ARE INSIDE

- Spray ant trails with soapy water solution and wipe up to remove.
- Clean up spilled food and drinks.
- Keep food in sealed containers.
- Apply gel bait at entry points the ants are using to get inside of the building.

2. COCKROACHES

WHAT TO DO TO KEEP COCKROACH OUT

- Store food in tightly sealed containers to prevent food sources.
- Fix all plumbing leaks to prevent sources of water.
- Clean up food and drink spills and wipe down counters by the end of each day.
- Seal exterior cracks and crevices of the home to prevent access.
- Use weatherstripping around windows and doors to prevent access.

WHAT TO DO WHEN COCKROACHES ARE INSIDE

- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter to remove live cockroaches, cockroach fragments, egg capsules, and frass. Immediately remove the trash bag and place in an outside trash can.
- Remove caked on droppings (frass) safely with soap and water and a scrub brush.
- Install monitoring traps to capture cockroaches and monitor the population.
- Use a 1:10 solution of soapy water as a contact killer. This approach is least toxic to people and the environment.
- Seal cracks and crevices around cabinets, pipes, and baseboards that can provide harborage.

3. MICE

WHAT TO DO TO KEEP MICE OUT

- Get rid of items they might use to build nests - cotton, shredded paper, rags, etc.
- Remove clutter like stacked boxes, newspapers, piles of clothes.
- Seal cracks and crevices, openings or voids large enough to stick a pencil through.
- Keep food in sealed containers - metal, glass, heavy plastic.
- Don't leave food out overnight - store in the refrigerator.
- Clean up spilled food and drinks immediately.
- Fix leaky plumbing and prevent standing water around the building.

- Empty garbage cans routinely and keep lids tightly closed.
- Trim vegetation away from the building since mice are good climbers.

WHAT TO DO WHEN MICE ARE INSIDE

- Identify areas they are nesting and what they are eating in the building
- Remove their food and water sources.
- Use snap traps to eliminate the infestation - place traps along walls where droppings have been found.
- Safely remove and dispose of mice that have been caught using gloves.
- After all mice have been trapped, seal up entry points and voids they are using as harborage using rodent proof material.
- Safely clean up mouse droppings and urine and disinfect the area using gloves.

4. RATS

WHAT TO DO TO KEEP RATS OUT

- Store bags of pet food, bird seed, and grass seed in rodent-proof containers, or at the very least, inspect them often for any signs of gnawing.
- Pick up fallen fruit and nuts from trees daily.
- Fix leaky plumbing and eliminate any unnecessary standing water.
- Dispose of all garbage in dumpsters or garbage cans with tight fitting lids that are kept closed.
- Reduce clutter and debris by using proper storage techniques.
- Trim tree branches 3 to 6 feet away from the building and trim vines, bushes, grass, and weeds at least 2 feet from all buildings to decrease cover for rodent runways, to prevent hidden access.
- Eliminate dense plantings or break them up with pathways, stretches of lawn, or very low groundcover.
- Avoid large expanses of low groundcover that could allow rats to run for long distances without being seen.
- Seal large and small holes both inside and out. Also seal where pipes and wires enter the structure. Seal small holes with steel or copper wool and caulk.
- Seal vents with ¼ inch hardware cloth.

WHAT TO DO WHEN RATS ARE INSIDE

- Use snap traps and place them along walls, rodent pathways, and in other protected areas like behind objects.
- For bait, use food the rats are already eating or for Norway rats use pieces of hot dog, bacon, liver, peanut butter, or nutmeats.
- Move objects around to funnel rats into traps.
- Monitor traps regularly and frequently, and keep bait fresh. Rats avoid old or rancid bait.
- Exclusion methods are favored over any chemical means. Rodenticides can pose hazards to non target animals, including children and dogs. Poisoned rodents may also die in inaccessible places and cause odor and fly problems.

Weed Abatement

TURF GRASS

1. Choose grass species that are well suited to the purpose of the turf.
2. Maintain healthy soils.
3. Irrigate uniformly and efficiently.
4. Fertilize turf grass properly.
5. Aerate turf regularly.
6. Mow at the correct height.

WEEDS IN LANDSCAPE

1. Design landscape to prevent weeds (paving under fences, benches, bleachers, trash cans).
2. Prior to planting, prepare site to prevent weeds (sheet mulching).
3. Alternatives to herbicide:
 - Prevention Methods (manage weeds before go to seed, mulch at optimal times, etc.)
 - Horticultural Methods (irrigate deeply and less frequently, prevent soil compaction, etc.)
 - Mechanical Methods (flame, mow, hand removal, etc.)
 - Biological Methods (Grazing with wildstock)