

## WHAT YOU CAN DO – WITHOUT PESTICIDES



There are many, many things you can do to help prevent and eliminate pests in and around the home *without using pesticides*. Here are a few:

### *MOISTURE CONTROL – Removing moisture that attracts pests ...*

- Repair leaky roofs, faucets, pipes and appliances.
- Clean gutters and downspouts.
- Direct water away from the house.
- Eliminate standing water and water in outdoor containers.
- Ensure that crawlspaces have vents and a vapor barrier.

### *EXCLUSION – Sealing keeps pests out...*

- Seal foundation cracks, and gaps where utility lines enter.
- Keep doors, windows and vents screened and well sealed.
- Keep exterior wood painted, stained or sealed.
- Seal items in storage. Store items in plastic, not cardboard.
- Before bringing in new items, inspect them for pests.

### *SANITATION – Cleaning removes food and hiding places...* Keep trash containers clean and tightly sealed.

- Keep foods in sealed containers.
- Don't leave dog/cat food or birdseed out for long periods.
- Remove clutter and junk, indoors and out.
- Vacuum regularly.

### *PREVENTION – Making your home unattractive to pests...*

- Eliminate wood-to-ground contact.
- Use gravel or rock instead of wood mulch.
- Use concrete or plastic instead of wood landscape timbers.
- Keep plants trimmed and woodpiles away from house.
- Use yellow “bug lights” in exterior light fixtures.

### *MECHANICAL CONTROL – Removing pests, without pesticides...*

- Use snap traps for mice and rats.
- Use sticky traps to locate and control insect/spider infestations.
- Use pheromone traps for clothes moths, meal moths, etc.
- Use light traps indoors for flies, etc., flypaper and swatters too.
- Use a vacuum to remove ladybird beetles, fleas, spiders, etc.

**Some of the methods above take more effort than others, some cost more, but all are important parts of your pest management plan.**