

# 10 Ways To Bug Proof Your Home

"WE HAVE YOUR PESTS UNDER CONTROL"



By Paul Truscott

Pest Management Professional

# FREE REPORT

## 10 Ways To Bug Proof Your Home

Many people are frightened of bugs and in some cases, phobic, whilst others are fascinated by them. Either way, most people agree they do not wish to cohabit with them. Did you know, many bugs create unsanitary conditions and pose a threat to human health? Cockroaches and mites can cause allergic reactions in children such as Asthma (a potentially life threatening condition). Other pests are simply annoying, from the itchy bite of the mosquito and bed bug to the painful and potentially life threatening bite of venomous spiders and sting from bees and wasps.

## With Trillions of Bugs in the Environment How Do You Keep Them at Bay?

By understanding what attracts bugs into your home, you can go a long way toward keeping them out! Like every animal, insects have basic needs such as:

- ✓ Food
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Shelter

Eliminate their potential food and water supply get rid of their favourite hiding places and you can significantly reduce your risk of pest infestation!

## How to Dramatically Reduce Pests in Ten Simple Steps:

### 1.) Seal Doors

Just as a locked door prevents human intruders entering your home, so a sealed door will help prevent unwanted pests gaining access. Examine external doorways, you will inevitably find gaps and potential pest entry points. It is recommended you seal all cracks and crevices with a quality caulk or silicone sealant. Stop insects and spiders from crawling underneath doors by adding door sweeps. They are quick and easy to fit. However, none of these measures will help if family members refrain from closing doors. In this instance, consider investing in automatic door closers.

## 2.) Fit and Repair Fly Screens

During warmer months you may open windows to ventilate your home, which enables insects to enter. Keep insects out: fit good quality screens to windows and doors. Check screens are flush, in good working order and free from holes, gaps or tears. Broken screens can be overhauled. Simply purchase a repair kit from your local hardware store.

## 3.) Garden Maintenance

Maintenance, or lack, of has a massive impact on bug infestation. For example, mosquitoes need water to breed. Eliminate standing pools of water (including blocked drain wastes), clear gutters of leaves and debris and it can significantly reduce mosquito numbers.

Use of water wise products such as mulch and wood chip attracts insects. Especially important to note, these products attract termites! Mulch provides both food and a damp environment to support a termite colony's existence. Ensure mulch is not used around the immediate perimeter of your home or is in direct contact with outer walls. In addition, check storm water downpipes are emptying into drain aways or soak wells and not venting directly into the ground adjacent to your property. Address these issues and you will dramatically reduce the risk of termite ingress into your home.

Dense foliage and fallen leaves help support pest species. Prune trees and shrubs and remove fallen leaves from the ground. Many homeowners have trees and shrubs in close proximity to their home, with tree branches overhang the roof. These should be either removed or maintained since they significantly increase the risk of both termites and rodents entering your home.

## 4.) Seal All Cracks

Pest species are very small and enter your home through miniscule holes. Many windows have microscopic cracks around the perimeter. Whilst almost invisible, they permit entry to small pest species such as ants. Inspect your home for crevices around windows, brickwork, wooden frames

and fascia boards. Repair fissures to masonry and use a good mix of mortar. Repair all other openings using a quality silicone sealant or similar product designed for external use. Replace rotten timber and seal where appropriate.

### 5.) Seal Pipe Penetrations

Whilst builders provide a comfortable home for us to live in, they are not mindful of keeping pests out of your home during construction. Many pipes, conduits and utility cables are left unsealed after installation. Gaps around cables and pipes are entry points for rodents and other unwanted pests. Check the following penetrations for access into your home:

- ✓ Water pipes
- ✓ Gas pipes
- ✓ Electrical pipes
- ✓ Air Conditioning pipes
- ✓ Telephone cabling
- ✓ Conduit

For small gaps use a silicone sealant and for larger openings use an expandable foam or mortar. If using expandable foam to seal a large cavity, block off the void first with wire wool to prevent rodent access.

### 6.) Cover Large Openings

Some of the largest cavities in your home may be difficult to plug. Indeed, you may not want to since they provide necessary ventilation, such as voids under eaves and subfloors. In this instance, cover the opening with a fine mesh which facilitates ventilation. Rodents are a particular problem in roof spaces and subfloors. Airbricks permit pest ingress when broken or fitted without a wire mesh. Therefore, installation of a wire mesh is advised in order to keep rodents and other undesirable pests out!

### 7.) Don't Invite Pests to Dinner

Regardless of the steps you've taken to exclude pests from your home, it is unlikely you will succeed in blocking every entry point. To deter the few who gain access, remove their favourite amenities:

- ✓ Eliminate clutter – so they have nowhere to hide and breed.
- ✓ Clear food – wipe surfaces and store opened food in air tight containers.
- ✓ Pet food bowls – empty and wash them after feeding and drinking.
- ✓ Food waste – wipe down work benches, floors and sinks each evening.
- ✓ Food consumption – limit to one area of the home.
- ✓ Hygiene - wipe up crumbs and spills after eating; wash dishes immediately after use.

### 8.) Storage of Rubbish

Rubbish bins are a magnet for pests, particularly the waste bin in your kitchen. To prevent bugs feasting on your trash, adequate handling and storage is important. Limit disposal of left overs to the kitchen bin; do not discard food in open wastepaper baskets throughout your home. Garbage should be placed inside a refuse bag and placed in a covered receptacle. Empty your food bin daily. Place a knotted refuse sack in the exterior bin storage area, which should ideally reside away from your home. Bin storage, both internal and external must be sanitized frequently.

### 9.) Keep Foundations Clean and Clear

Some older style homes have a timber subfloor underneath the home. If you live in this style of construction you must ensure your subfloor is free of debris and rubbish which may attract and support pest activity. Your sub floor must be well ventilated. In addition, check plumbing for leaks. A moist or damp environment is conducive to pest activity and encourages termites into your home!

If your home sits on a concrete foundation, you should ensure storm water drains are free of debris allowing water to drain away and not sit in pools around your foundation. If your storm water pipes empty straight to the ground, consider installing soak wells to facilitate proper drainage. Keeping moisture away from your foundation makes it difficult for pests to reproduce.

Similarly, piles of wood chippings, mulch, leaves and debris must be stored away from your foundation. **Note: fire wood must be stored well away**

**from your home to avoid attracting termites.** It is recommended fire wood be stockpiled off the ground, on a raised bed comprised of either plastic or metal.

### 10.) Encourage Natural Predators

One of the easiest ways to keep pest numbers down, is by encouraging other animals into your garden, such as birds. Small insects are the main food source for many species of birds and bats. To encourage birds, plant trees and shrubs that support nesting. Add a fresh water supply and change if often. You may also consider bird seed as both a supplement to their insect diet and as an attractant. However, make certain bird seed is not accessible to rodents, you do not want to attract them too!

### Summary

To achieve a pest free home, we recommend you set aside one weekend and follow the ten simple steps outlined in your report. Imagine not having to worry about when the next family of rodents moves into your home. If you've had rodents once, the chances are you'll get them again.

Don't like the sound of that? Then simply bug proof your home.

Picture this ... no more unpleasant surprises as mice jump out at you or scurry across the floor. No more unsanitary conditions. And for those of you who are petrified of rats and mice ... no more leaping onto the kitchen work bench in absolute terror!

Similarly, bug proof your home and stop worrying about those huge brown cockroaches and spiders who pay you a visit each year. Put away your saucepan and rest easy in your bed, in the knowledge the only thing you'll ever need your saucepan for is cooking, not for catching cockroaches and spiders!

*“DON'T WANT TO LIVE WITH  
PESTS? BUG PROOF YOUR HOME!”*



“Hi, Paul here, if pests are still annoying you, get your professional solution right here!”

Go to [www.bugslife.com.au](http://www.bugslife.com.au)

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