



## Keeping Pests Away Squash, Stomp, Swat

All pests need water, shelter, and food to live. Pests find many of the things they need to survive in homes and yards. The best way to manage pest problems is to prevent them from happening.

There are many ways to manage pest problems. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) helps people decide the best and least toxic way to remove pests. It also teaches ways to stop pests from ever becoming a problem. IPM promotes using many methods to solve problems. While pesticides many be used, they are used only as a last resort. IPM asks people to:

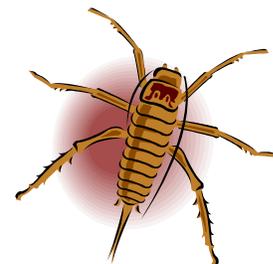
- Know their pest problem.
- Use prevention first.
- Use non-chemical solutions first.
- Only use pesticides when non-chemical solutions don't work.

Often when pesticides are used, they kill more than the pest you were targeting and can contaminate the environment. IPM wants you to first think about *squashing* a bug, *stomping* an ant, or *swatting* a fly before reaching for a pesticide to kill it.

### What Kind of Pest is It?

There are six steps to help you better understand the pest and how to deal with it:

1. What is it?\*
2. Where does the pest live, breed, and what does it eat?
3. How many pests are there?
4. How many pests are too many?
5. What is the best way to get rid of the pest?
6. How well are your pest management efforts working?



\* Contact your county extension agent, found in the blue pages of the phonebook, or use <http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/casdept/IPM/pdf/commoninsects.pdf>.

### Pest Prevention

Cause of Pest Problem	Way to Prevent Problem
Is there a spill on the floor that attracts ants?	Cleaning up spills and food crumbs.
Do you have a hole in your screen door that is letting flies, wasps, or bees in?	Patching screen doors or windows.
Are the lids on your canisters tight enough to keep cockroaches out of the flour and sugar?	Securing canister lids or choosing a tightly sealed container.
Is your pet food in a tightly sealed container?	Purchasing new containers that have tighter lids.

