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*We Make Homes Healthy™* ThrasherPestControl.com

# Homeowner Checklist Pest Prevention

**Are you unintentionally inviting insects, rodents, and other pests into your home? Follow these simple guidelines for removing conditions that welcome pests.**

## BIRD SEED



If you have a rodent problem, chances are that your bird feeder is feeding more than your feathered friends. Eliminate the bird feeder; however if you absolutely must feed the birds, purchase a rodent-proof feeder and store the seed in a metal storage container with a tight fitting lid.

## BRANCHES AND SHRUBS



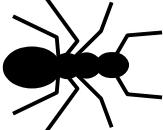
Rats can jump over three feet; ants have been known to build living bridges with their bodies! Keep branches and shrubs from becoming a highway into your home. Trim shrubs back a minimum of twelve inches from your home and keep tree branches at least six feet from your roof.

## FIREWOOD



A pile of firewood is ideal habitat for spiders and beetles. It provides hiding places for mice and rats, and it is breakfast, lunch and dinner for termites. Keep firewood at least 20 feet from your home and four inches off the ground.

## FRUIT TREES AND NUTS



Fallen fruit attracts ants, gnats, flies, yellow jackets, mice, rats and other pests. Clean up fallen fruit and nuts before they become lunch counter for pests.

## GARBAGE / RECYCLING CONTAINMENT



What doesn't like garbage? From flies to cockroaches to your pet dog, garbage attracts pests. Remove food waste from your house on a daily basis and store away from your house in a lidded container until your regular garbage pickup. If you are like most Californians and recycle food containers, rinse them, then store them outside in a lidded recycling container.

## PANTRY



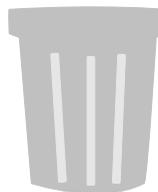
Numerous critters seek food, shelter, and a breeding ground in kitchen pantries. Store rice, flour, oatmeal and other grains in airtight plastic or glass containers. No, a Ziploc bag isn't good enough. Pantry moths can and will eat through thin plastic bags to get at the food inside. Other food items to store securely include dried fruits and nuts and chocolate.

## PETS



Dogs and cats may pick up fleas left behind by squirrels and other furry visitors to your yard. To prevent fleas in your home, treat your pets with a pet approved flea prevention product. Many find Frontline and Advantage to be effective. Whatever product you choose, carefully follow label directions.

## PET FOOD BOWLS AND STORAGE



Metal containers with tight lids! That's the solution for keeping your dog and cat food from becoming the midnight snack for rats and mice. Many pet stores sell plastic food storage bins. We've seen many occasions where rats have gnawed their way through plastic to the food inside. Go metal. Also, leaving pet food out in bowls is an invitation to neighborhood raccoons, opossums, and skunks as well as mice, rats, cockroaches, earwigs and other pests. Secure all pet food especially at night.

## SCREENS



Screens on all windows and doors are your first line of defense against mosquitoes and flies. Ensure that screens fit tightly against window and door frames and are not warped or torn.

## STANDING WATER



Most people realize that standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes; however, standing water and dripping faucets attract thirsty yellow jackets, provide essential hydration for ants, and create conditions conducive to springtails and other water loving pests. Eliminate the drips and eliminate the pests.

