

Pest Management Awareness for Home Visitors

Contra Costa County IPM Advisory
Committee



What we'll cover today:

- Common pest problems and some solutions
- Opportunities for you to help your clients
- Resources for helping your clients

WHY CARE ABOUT PESTS IN THE HOME?



Asthma Triggers

What we think of first:



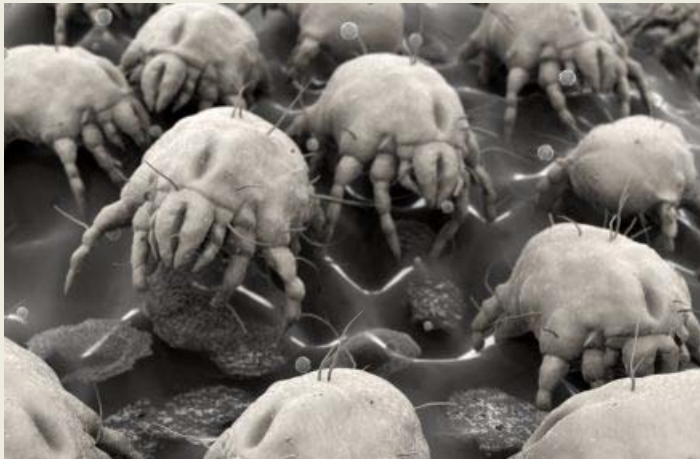
Asthma triggers from pests:



Cockroach droppings & scales



Rodent droppings, urine & hair



Dust mite skins, feces & secretions

Pests create other hazards in the home.

- **Acute food poisoning:** rodents carry *Salmonella* bacteria in their gut and contaminate human food with their droppings
- **Parasites:** fleas & mites can attack humans
- **Bites:** rats & bed bugs bite humans
- **Fires & electrical shorts:** rats & mice often gnaw on electrical wires

Other problems with pests



Rodents consume and contaminate human food.



Rodents damage household belongings and structures

Other problems with pests



Grain moths contaminate food.



Carpet beetles and clothes moths ruin clothing and other belongings.



Bed bugs can cause:

- Loss of sleep
- Anxiety
- Psychological problems
- Excessive pesticide use—out of desperation



What happens when there is a lack of pest control services?

- People rely solely on pesticides for control.
- Over-use of pesticides in the home can be hazardous!



What can you do to help?

- Listen to your clients
- Look for signs of pests
- Work with the landlord
- Share information & resources



Signs of rats & mice

Rat and mouse droppings



Signs of bed bugs



Stains on sheets,
live bugs

Bites



Fecal spots

Signs of cockroaches

Live insects



Droppings



PEST PREVENTION

**Prevention is the long term solution
for a pest problem.**

The Benefits:

- Fewer pests!
- Fewer asthma attacks
- Less anxiety and stress
- Cleaner home = healthier environment
- Less need for treatment with pesticides
- Less pesticide use = healthier environment

Prevention—Understand what all pests need

- Access to the dwelling
- Food
- Water
- Shelter

Deny access to the structure



Fill holes in walls, add
doorsweeps under doors,
screens on windows



Store food properly



Keep things clean

- Wipe up spills



- Clean regularly
- Vacuum, if possible



Wash sheets at least every 2 weeks

- Dust mites feed on skin flakes which are most numerous in beds and upholstered furniture.
- Inspect for signs of bed bugs every time sheets are changed.



Remove food garbage

If cockroaches or ants are a problem, seal up food garbage overnight. Dispose of frequently.



Remove food garbage

If rats and mice are a problem, remove food garbage daily before going to bed.



Keep bin or
dumpster
lid closed.

Water

- Fix leaks
- When showering, open the window or turn on the fan



Shelter

Clutter provides lots of hiding/nesting places and makes it hard to do pest inspections.



A team approach is needed to solve pest problems.

Controlling rodents, bed bugs, and cockroaches requires the involvement and cooperation of

- Tenants
- Landlords
- Pest Management Professionals



Cooperative Roles in Pest Management

Tenant responsibilities:

- Keep the home clean and uncluttered
- Alert the landlord to
 - Pest problems
 - Plumbing and ventilation problems
- Allow access to pest management company personnel for inspections and treatments

Cooperative Roles in Pest Management

Landlord responsibilities:

- Must maintain clean and habitable premises, free of rubbish, filth, garbage and vermin (Calif. Civil Code § 1941.1 & SB 488)
- Should encourage tenants to report problems
- Should hire a pest management company to perform regular inspections, and treatments as needed

Cooperative Roles in Pest Management

Landlords, cont.

- Must follow new California bed bug law (AB551—Calif. Civil Code § 1942 & § 1954)
 - Provide tenants information about bed bug biology and habits
 - Inspect for bed bugs if notified by tenants of suspected infestations
 - Provide tenants of inspected units with the results of the bed bug inspections

Cooperative Roles in Pest Management

Pest Management Professionals:

- Should provide regular inspections and report findings and conducive conditions to landlord
- Should work cooperatively with tenants to solve problems
 - Explain the connection between food/food waste and pests
 - Explain the connection between cleanliness/order and lack of pests

Benefits of Using Pest Management Professionals

- Licensed by the state
- Regular continuing education required
- Trained on pesticide safety regulations
- Trained to identify and control a variety of pests
- Control of difficult pests, such as bed bugs, is usually not successful without using an experienced, professional company

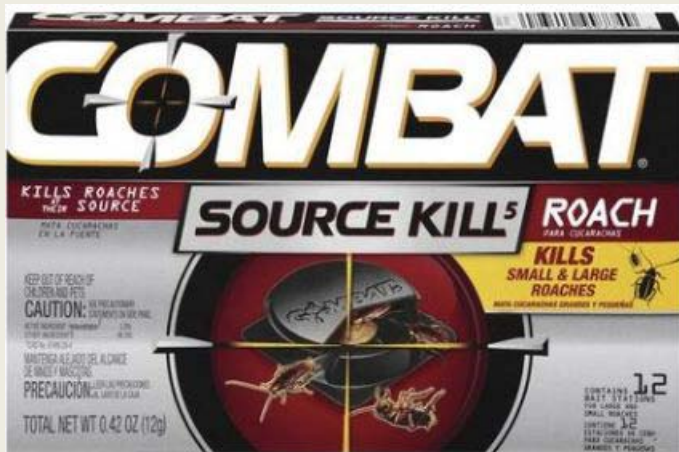
Special Tips for Bed Bugs

- A clothes dryer kills all stages.
- Use Climbup Interceptors
- For more info, see cchealth.org/bedbugs



Special Tips for Cockroaches

- Store food properly
- Keep things clean and dry
- Use cockroach bait stations, not pesticide sprays



Place bait stations along an edge—not in the middle of the floor or counter. Keep out of reach of children and pets.

Special Tips for Rodents

- Store food properly
- Keep things clean and dry
- Remove clutter
- Use snap traps, not poison bait



Place traps along edges with trigger facing the wall. Use plenty of traps. Tie bait to trigger with dental floss. Bait with peanut butter, hot dog pieces, bacon, nuts.

Special Tips for Ants

- Store food properly
- Keep things clean and dry
- Remove food garbage from the home before going to bed when ants are a problem
- Use ant bait stations, not pesticide sprays



Questions?