Getting Rid of Pests

1. Keep Pests Out
   • Look for entry points to your home and seal all cracks and holes. Use caulk, copper mesh, duct tape, door sweeps, etc.

2. Remove Food and Water
   • Check for leaking pipes and make needed repairs.
   • Remove pet bowls immediately after pets eat and drink.
   • Clean dirty dishes by the end of the day, store food in sealed containers, and clean up spills quickly.
   • Use a trash can with a tight lid and take the trash out often. Store trash and recycling away from the home.

3. Clean and Reduce Shelter
   • Clean all surfaces with soap and water to wash away any waste pests have left behind. Vacuum any body parts you see.
   • Get rid of clutter and throw away unneeded cardboard.
   • Keep cupboards organized so you can see signs of pests.

4. Treat Problem Safely
   • Avoid using pesticide sprays, foggers, and bug bombs which spread pesticides throughout home.
   • Use tamper-resistant traps and baits (such as “roach motels”) that are safer for pets and children.

BED BUGS
   • Have a professional confirm that you have bed bugs before any treatment, which should only be provided by a licensed professional. Ask the company to locate all hiding places.
   • Protect yourself by using zipped mattress coverings, avoid bringing used furniture into the home, and use a clothes dryer for new and used clothing before wearing it.
   Contact the NC Department of Agriculture at 919-733-3556 with questions.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
UNC Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility: www.sph.unc.edu/cehs
NC Healthy Homes: www.nchealthyhomes.com