

HOW TO FIGHT PESTS WITHOUT RISKING YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH

A Resident Guide to Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Pests need the same things humans do. They need food, water, shelter and a way to come and go. Integrated pest management works by cutting off these basic needs.

SHUT DOWN THEIR FOOD SUPPLY

- Use covered trashcans and take out garbage daily.
- Store food and pet food in closed containers.
- Limit food to the kitchen and dining areas whenever possible.
- Empty pet bowls between meals.

CUT OFF THEIR SOURCE OF WATER

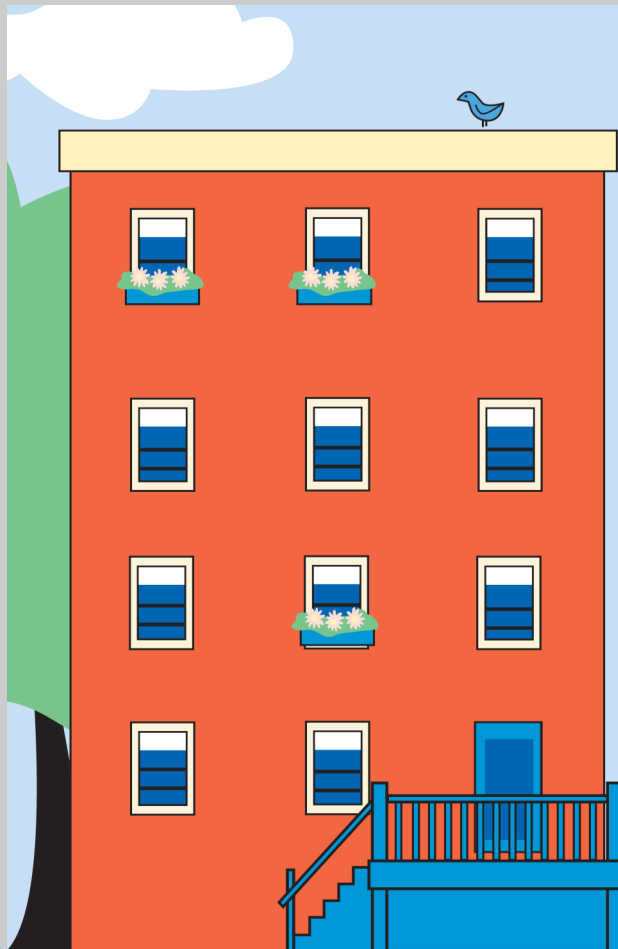
- Use caulk to seal leaks around sinks and showers.
- Wipe up spills when they happen.
- Inform housing management of leaks so they can be fixed.
- Store pet water and food in sealed containers.

SEAL THEM OUT

- Repair window screens.
- Cover vents with wire mesh.
- Repair cracks in baseboards and around pipes.
- Block holes in walls and cabinets.
- Clean up old newspapers, shopping bags, laundry and other clutter.

ERASE THEIR ROAD MAPS

- Erase their directions by washing their travel routes with soap and water



Tenants have a right to live free of pests. If problems persist, call the City of Boston's Housing Division of Inspectional Services at 617-635-5322.

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