



## Six Steps to Prevent Pests in Your Home

By: Chris Cramer, *Cramer Pest Control*

What if you were in a fight where your opponent could lift 1,000 times his own weight, jump 100 times his height, or for every one you handled, another 1,000 took his place? Imagine you were outnumbered 100 billion to one. Is it time to pick a new fight? Welcome to the world of pest control, where control odds can seem astronomical. We live in the land of cotton, tobacco, and bugs; they are not afraid to make their presence known.

Every day I am asked, "What is the most important tool that can be used in pest prevention?" My response is always, "A broom, vacuum, caulk gun, and a can of Stuffit®. Nothing is a substitute for cleanliness. Allow for a 6" to 12" barrier of gravel at the exterior base of your home to allow water a place to drain."

Each home is different, but here are some other basic prevention steps that can be used to help pest-proof your home:

- Install door sweeps or thresholds at the base of all exterior entry doors. Check for light filtering under doors. Gaps of 1/16 inch or less will permit entry of insects and spiders; 1/4 inch-wide gaps (the diameter of a pencil) are large enough for entry of mice; 1/2 inch gaps are adequate for rats.

- Apply caulk along the bottom outside edges and on the sides of door thresholds to exclude ants and other small insects. Garage doors should be fitted with a

bottom seal constructed of rubber. Gaps under sliding glass doors can be sealed by lining the bottom track with 1/2 to 3/4 inch-wide foam weather stripping.

- Seal utility openings where pipes and wires enter the foundation and siding, e.g., around outdoor faucets, receptacles, gas meters, clothes dryer vents, and telephone/cable TV wires. Holes can be plugged with caulk, cement, urethane expandable foam, steel wool, copper mesh (Stuffit®), or other suitable sealants.

- Caulk cracks around windows, doors, fascia boards, etc. Although somewhat less flexible, latex-type caulks clean up easily with water and are paintable. Caulks that dry clear are often easier to use and do not show mistakes.

- Repair gaps and tears in window and door screens. The only way to deny entry to tiny insects is to keep windows closed during periods of adult emergence.

- Install 1/4-inch wire mesh (hardware cloth) over attic, roof, and crawl space vents in order to prevent entry of birds, bats, squirrels, rodents, and other wildlife. Invest in a chimney cap to exclude birds, squirrels, raccoons and other nuisance wildlife.

For more information on how to pest-proof your home, visit our web site at [www.cramerpest.com](http://www.cramerpest.com). We offer a free pest evaluation.

### About Chris Cramer

Now residing in Fort Mill's Baxter community, Chris strives to continue the business he and his father started in 2000 while carrying out the company's mission: To be the best pest control company in Fort Mill and surrounding areas. We offer a 100% satisfaction guarantee and honor God in all we do.

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