










# Safe Pesticide Alternatives for Homeowners

<p><b>Ants</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vinegar:</b> Wash counter tops, cabinets, and floors with equal parts vinegar and water to deter ant infestations.</li> <li>• <b>Bonemeal and Powdered Charcoal or Lemon:</b> Set up barriers where ants are entering. They will generally not cross lines of bonemeal or powdered charcoal. If you can find a hole where ants are entering the house, squeeze the juice of a lemon in the hole or crack. Then slice the lemon and put the peeling all around the entrance.</li> <li>• <b>Spearmint, Southernwood, Tansey:</b> Growing these plants around the border of your home will deter ants and the aphids they carry.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fleas</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vacuum:</b> Vacuum, remove the vacuum bag, seal it, and dispose of it immediately outside your home.</li> <li>• <b>Vinegar:</b> A ratio of 1 teaspoon (5 cc) vinegar to 1 quart (1 liter) water per 40 pounds (18 kg) of pet weight in their drinking water helps to keep your pets free of fleas and ticks.</li> <li>• <b>Fennel, Rosemary, Red Cedar Shavings, Sassafras, or Eucalyptus:</b> Spread leaves or shavings of these plants under and around the pet's bed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Garden Pests</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cultural Controls:</b> Nutrition, resistant varieties, interplanting, timed planting, crop rotation, mulch, trap crops, and cultivation.</li> <li>• <b>Mechanical Controls:</b> Handpicking, physical barriers, traps.</li> <li>• <b>Biological Controls:</b> Frogs, spiders, ladybugs, praying mantises, other predatory and parasitic insects, and microbes.</li> <li>• <b>Chemical:</b> Natural sprays and dusts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mice</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mashed Potato Powder or Buds:</b> Place instant mashed potato powder or buds in strategic places with a dish of water close by. After eating the powder or buds mice will need water. This causes fatal bloating.</li> <li>• <b>Mouse Traps:</b> Use according to label directions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mosquitoes</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prevention:</b> Eliminate pools of stagnant water. Avoid wearing perfume, bright colors, flowery prints, and bright jewelry as these items attract mosquitoes.</li> <li>• <b>Biological Control:</b> Put up purple martin bird houses.</li> <li>• <b>Citronella:</b> Burn citronella candles to repel insects.</li> <li>• <b>Tansey or Basil:</b> Plant tansey or basil around patio and house to repel mosquitoes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Moths</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prevention:</b> Store items in a clean condition: moth larvae especially like areas soiled with food stains.</li> <li>• <b>Rosemary, Mint, Thyme, Cloves, and Ginseng (optional):</b> Chicago area weavers and spinners use _ pound rosemary, _ pound mint, _ pound thyme, _ pound ginseng, and 2 tablespoons cloves. Mix and put in cheesecloth bags and place in closets or drawers.</li> <li>• <b>Dried Lavender or Rosemary and Mint:</b> Make sachets of dried lavender or equal portions of rosemary and mint. Place in closets, drawers, or closed containers to mothproof garments.</li> <li>• <b>Rosemary, Sage, Mint, Dried Lemon Peel, and Cinnamon:</b> Mix handfuls of the first three ingredients. Add a little lemon peel and a pinch of cinnamon. Place in muslin bags.</li> <li>• <b>Molasses, Vinegar, and Yellow Container:</b> To trap moths, mix 1 part molasses with 2 parts vinegar and place in yellow container to attract moths. Clean regularly.</li> <li>• <b>Clothes Dryer:</b> Kill moth eggs by running garment through a warm dryer.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Flies</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prevention:</b> Keep kitchen garbage tightly closed. Sprinkle dry soap into garbage cans after they have been washed and allowed to dry; it acts as a repellent.</li> <li>• <b>Orange:</b> Scratch the skin of an orange and leave it out; the citrus acts as a repellent.</li> <li>• <b>Cloves:</b> Hang clusters of cloves to repel flies.</li> <li>• <b>Mint or Basil:</b> Mint planted around the home repels flies. A pot of basil set on a windowsill or table helps to repel flies. Keep the basil well-watered from the bottom so that it produces a stronger scent. Dried ground leaves left in small bowls or hung in muslin bags are also effective.</li> <li>• <b>Fly Swatters, Fly Traps, or Fly Paper:</b> Use according to label directions.</li> <li>• <b>Sugar and Corn Syrup:</b> Make your own fly paper by boiling sugar, corn syrup, and water together. Place mixture onto brown paper and hang or set out.</li> <li>• <b>Egg, Molasses, and Black Pepper:</b> Beat the yolk of an egg with a tablespoon (15 cc) each of molasses and finely ground black pepper. Set out in shallow plates.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Roaches</b></p> 	<p>! <b>Prevention:</b> Close off all gaps around pipes and electric lines where they enter the house by using cement or screening. Caulk small cracks along baseboards, walls, cupboards, and around pipes, sinks, and bathtub fixtures. Seal food tightly. Rinse off dishes that are left overnight. Do not leave pet food out overnight.</p> <p>! <b>Hedge Apples (Osage Orange):</b> Cut hedge apples in half and place several in basement, around in cabinets, or under the house to repel roaches.</p> <p>! <b>Baking Soda and Powdered Sugar:</b> Mix equal parts and spread around infested area.</p>
<p><b>Slugs and Snails</b></p> 	<p>! <b>Natural Predators:</b> Garter Snakes, grass snakes, ground beetles, box turtles, salamanders, ducks, and larvae of lightning bugs all feed on snails.</p> <p>! <b>Clay Pots:</b> Place overturned clay flower pots near the shady side of a plant. Rest one edge on a small twig or make sure that the ground is irregular enough for the slugs and snails to crawl under the rim. They will collect there during the warmest part of the day. Remove slugs and snails regularly and drop in a bucket of soapy water.</p> <p>! <b>Beer:</b> Set out saucers or jars full of stale beer, placed below ground level near the garden. The fermented liquid draws them and they drown.</p> <p>! <b>Sand, Lime, or Ashes:</b> Snails avoid protective borders of sand, lime, or ashes.</p> <p>! <b>Tin Can:</b> Protect young plants by encircling them with a tin can with both ends removed. Push the bottom end of the can into the soil.</p>

For local information, contact: