# Common Household Pests (P. 1 of 2)

Common Household Pests And How To Avoid Them

## Types of pests

**Seasonal insect activity is normal for Saskatchewan.**

**Below are some common household pests and tips on how to avoid them.**

**Mice** are small rodents with grey-brown bodies and almost hairless tails. They eat almost anything and spread germs. They also can chew wiring in walls, causing a fire hazard. They can squeeze into very small holes and hide in walls and other small spaces.

**Ants** are attracted to sweet foods, such as jam and soft drinks. Once they get into your home and find a food source, they will try to invade. Because they are so small, they can easily get into food and garbage and spread germs throughout your home.

**Fleas** are brownish, very small, fast-jumping insects with flat and hard bodies. They feed on blood and can pass on diseases and parasites. They can be carried by dogs, cats, mice, or people, and they hide in places with dust and bits of foods, like carpets and couches.

**Beetles** can be black, reddish, or dark brown. Some eat flour and cereals and others eat natural fibers like wool, fur, silk, and feathers. They can spoil food and ruin furniture, clothes, linens, and carpets.

**Cockroaches** are large insects with brown to black bodies that are oval and flat. They like crumbs and food and spread germs with their feet. They leave a musty smell and taste to food that they have touched.

## Tips to avoid pests

- Eat in the kitchen to reduce the spread of food crumbs in your unit.
- Tackle spills quickly and sweep or vacuum daily.
- Wash the dishes right away.
- Drain dishwater and wipe down the sink to avoid food smells lingering. Standing water is a desirable place for insects to breed.
- Clear drains to avoid standing water.
- Wipe off residue on honey, syrup, peanut butter, and ketchup containers.
- Store sugar, flour, cereal, pastas, and pet foods in sealable containers.
- Use or throw out fruits and vegetables that are overripe.
- Avoid clutter since it makes cleaning difficult and gives pests places to hide.

***Something to think about…***

**Know the type of pests that can come into your home and how to avoid them.**

Contact your local housing authority for more information