



PEST
CONTROL



PESTS (INSECTS)

When the weather gets warm and humid, insects become more active and numerous. Stay vigilant to ensure that this does not result in any infestations within your home.

There are a wide variety of pests to look out for. Always use caution as some varieties of insects are harmful to humans and pets.

SOME OF THE INSECTS WE SEE IN TENANT'S HOMES ARE:



Cockroaches



Ants



Fruit Flies



Bed Bugs



Wasps



Phorid (Drain Flies)

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT INSECT PESTS IN YOUR HOME?

Insects will only nest in your home if there is a food source for them, so prevention is about eliminating those food sources. During wet weather, insects may invade to stay out of the rain and protect themselves (especially ants that prefer dry conditions). By following these steps they will be less likely to nest and take up permanent residence:

- Regular cleaning and disposal of food debris and scraps
- Keeping rubbish covered and taking rubbish out on a regular basis
- Storing perishable food items inside the fridge or in sealed containers
- Regular cleaning of your property e.g. dusting, mopping, sweeping, vacuuming
- Keep sink drains clear of food scraps.
- Clean the sink drain when needed
- Reduce clutter or areas where pests can hide, like cluttered storage areas & floors
- Keeping doors & windows that do not have screens closed
- Washing bed linen & clothing regularly
- looking for insect activity and staining on edges of the mattress
- Gently dust or wipe with a dry cloth your smoke alarms/detectors if you are able. Insects can get inside the alarms and cause nuisance activations



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REMOVE PESTS FROM YOUR HOME?

- A common method is a chemical surface or crack and crevice spray. Different formulas can be used for different species. They are available from supermarkets, department, or hardware stores
- Products such as Ant Rid are in liquid or bait form. They destroy the ant nest to eradicate the colony. The bait station is generally more effective than the liquid form
- Regardless of the method you choose, follow the directions and safety precautions provided on the packaging, and ALWAYS be considerate to any health concerns
- Do not use pest control bombs as they are highly flammable and require you to turn off the electricity and smoke alarms/ detector. They also contaminate the entire air-space
- Do not spray chemicals in or around smoke alarms/detectors/electrical outlets or people/animals
- If the insects are outside and are not causing a nuisance to yourself or your neighbours, we recommend leaving them alone. But you should report pest species of concern



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TERMITES!

Termites are pale in colour and can resemble an ant or maggot in their shape. They are attracted to sources of wood and can cause extensive damage to properties.

Termites are more likely to be attracted to areas where there are high levels of moisture. This is why it is important to report any leaking taps, pipes, showers, baths, toilets to Bric Housing.

The first signs that a termite attack has occurred are door frames, window sills and skirting boards start to feel soft, break and appear hollow. Mud tracks may appear on external walls.

If you see any insect resembling a termite or damage resembling a termite attack, you MUST leave them undisturbed and call Bric Housing as soon as possible. Advise us where they are located and if possible, provide a photo.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TENANT AND BRIC HOUSING?

Bric Housing will ensure that each property has an annual pest control conducted. This spray/gel treatment will control insects such as cockroaches and silverfish. For any pests that are in common areas, Bric will arrange appropriate treatment based on recommendations by our contractors.

Tenants should follow the prevention methods. If insect pests appear during your tenancy, attempt reasonable, safe pest control remedies, including non-chemical options. For insects such as Bed Bugs and Termites a more invasive treatment is required, so call the Asset Services Team. If you can, take a photo and send it to maintenance@bric.org.au as this will help us identify what action is required.

If a pest control technician attends, and we determine that the infestation could have been prevented by the tenant by improving housekeeping standards, the cost may be passed on depending on the type of bug and cause of infestation.

Remember, pest control is most effective when food sources are eliminated, and hygiene standards are maintained. So yearly pest control along with following the recommendations above should keep you free of most insect pests.



SAVE THE BEES!

Bees are essential to life and our food supply as they pollinate plants and agricultural crops. Australian native bees are stingless and are protected.

Please do not use any insect sprays on or around them. There are other species in Australia that do sting. Always use caution around bees especially if you know you are allergic.

If you see bees buzzing around your property observe them from a safe distance. They may be only scout bees looking for a place to live. Check again the next day, and if the activity has increased or if they are still there call your local bee keepers association who can attend to remove the bees.

If you are stung by a bee, scrape the sting out. Don't attempt to pull it out. Wash the area and apply ice or a cold pack to reduce any swelling. If allergic seek medical assistance immediately.

