

IPM...

three letters to keep your home and garden green and our water clean



With integrated pest management (IPM), you work with nature to create an environment where it is difficult for pests to survive. Techniques include cultural practices (such as mulching to prevent weeds), encouraging natural enemies (“good bugs”), and judicious use of pesticides.

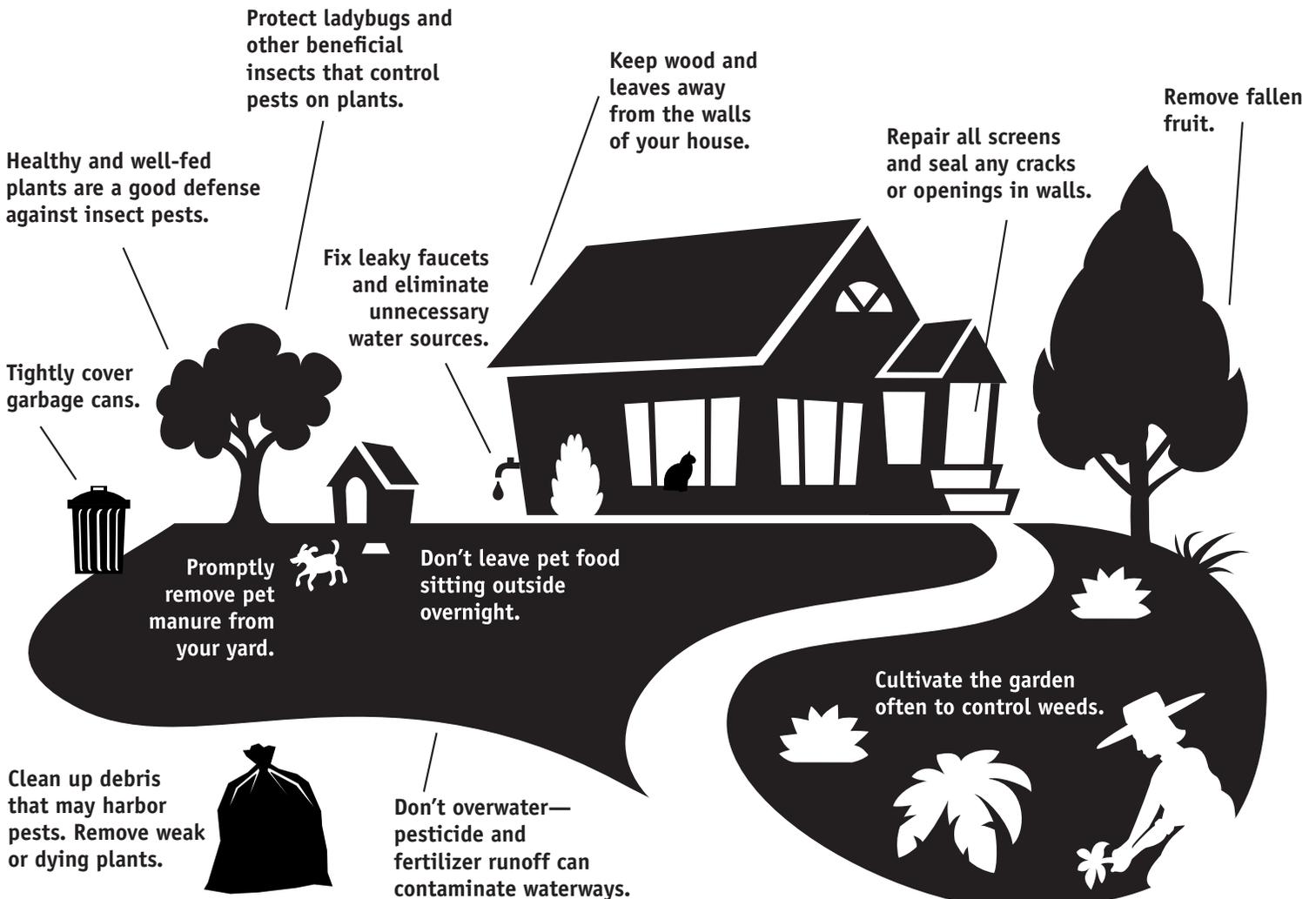
- First, identify your pest problem. To find the right solution, you need to pin down the problem. Consult gardening books or your local nursery.
- Decide how much pest control is necessary. If you learn to live with some pest damage, you can avoid intensive pesticide treatments.

- Choose an effective option. Try a combination of nonchemical controls first. If you use a chemical, choose one that targets the problem and poses the least hazard to people, property and the environment. Minimizing chemical use makes your home and garden safer and protects water quality.
- Finally, it’s easier to prevent pests than to control them. Think ahead.

For more information, please contact:

California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Pesticide Regulation
www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/h2o

Pest control around your home





Using Pesticides Safely

Keep your home and garden green
and our water clean

Without even realizing it, you often practice pest control in your home. Many household products contain pesticides, including disinfectants, cleansers, mildew removers, and more. But like any other chemical, pesticides can harm water quality if used improperly. How can you buy, use, and dispose of pesticides to best protect your home, children, and pets? Remember these important steps:

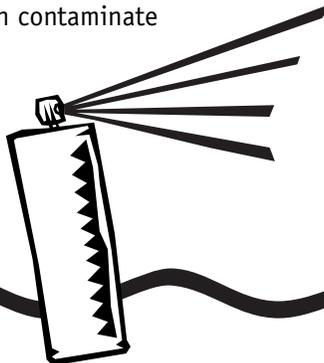
Buy

- Correctly identify the problem pest and seek the least-toxic, most pest-specific practices or pesticide treatment.
- Read the pesticide label to help get maximum benefits with minimum risk.
- Plan ahead. Buy just enough pesticide to do the job or to last the season.
- Consider ready-to-use products rather than concentrated solutions.



Use

- Before using a pesticide, **read the entire label and carefully follow its directions.**
- Always dilute and mix pesticides outside.
- Keep children and pets clear from areas treated with a spray until the spray dries.
- Don't spray on windy days and don't use pesticides when rain is forecast — runoff from lawns and gardens can contaminate waterways.



Dispose

- **Never** dispose of any pesticide by flushing it down the drain or toilet.
- **Use it!** The best way to dispose of excess pesticide is to use it according to directions on the product label.
- Follow label directions to dispose of unused pesticides (unless local laws are stricter).
- Do not recycle pesticide containers.



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