

# Pest Problems - finding the right solution

**October 2004** - Pests can come in many forms. Some, like termites, ants, grubs, and invasive weeds, can cause damage to your property. Some threaten people's health by triggering allergic reactions and carrying disease. Others can contaminate food or damage possessions in your home.

The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) says a few simple preventative measures can stop most problems before they begin. Even when pests do get in, CCSPA says consumers should determine the best way to solve the problem.

CCSPA recommends a combination of preventative and control methods, where required. Preventative measures include using physical barriers like screens to keep pests out of your house, removing sources of food, and eliminating pest-attractive conditions, such as damp environments around your home.

Homeowners should also be aware that certain insects can actually help to eliminate other insects that may be damaging their lawns or gardens. The ladybird beetle, praying mantis, trichogramma wasp, lacewing and other "good" insects can help keep the population of aphids and certain other pests under control.

If you decide pest control products are required, ensure you have properly identified the pest, and pick a control product that lists the pest you are trying to control and describes your problem. Purchase and use only the amount required for the job at hand and always follow the directions on the label.

More information on pest control products and pest management can be found at [www.healthycleaning101.org](http://www.healthycleaning101.org).