

Household Pests

Practical skills

Identifying common pests and the first, least drastic response.

Educational reference. Persistent infestations need a professional.

Pest	Sign	First step
Mice	Droppings, gnawing, noise	Seal gaps over 6 mm; remove food
Ants	Trails to a food source	Clean the trail; find the entry
Moths	Holes in wool, larvae	Clean and freeze; pheromone traps
Silverfish	Damp, dark areas	Reduce humidity
Carpet beetle	Bare patches in wool	Vacuum thoroughly; heat treat
Fruit flies	Around ripe fruit	Remove the source; vinegar trap

Educational reference. Bed bugs and rats generally need professional treatment; DIY attempts often spread them.