



Keep pests out of the home

Learn how to keep nuisance pests, like stink bugs, out of the home this winter

By Suzanne Bontempo of [Plant Harmony](#)

Autumn is a time for bringing sweaters to the front of the closet, pulling out the warm blankets, and switching the heaters on as the temperatures outside begin to drop. We're not the only ones that like to stay warm and cozy during the colder season; many of us battle with unwanted guests in the form of ladybugs, spiders, stink bugs, and other nuisance pests who also enjoy the comforts of a warm, dry home.



Image by Siala of Pixabay

Keeping nuisance pests out is simple. The best solution for long-term success is to seal off their points of entry. However, this isn't always convenient, since thorough investigation to identify where they are getting in can take a bit of time and patience. But once these points of entry have been identified, the problem is nearly solved. Here are the steps I take to keep unwanted pests out:

1. Seal up cracks and crevices around windowsills, door frames, and pipes that run into the home from the exterior with caulk to prevent pests from making their way in.
2. Ensure the window screens are secure and not damaged. Repair any rips or holes that may be entry points.
3. Replace any worn weatherstripping around doors to prevent points of entry.
4. Inspect heating and dryer ducts to identify if insects are nesting in the insulation.
5. Remove, relocate, or vacuum up any nuisance pests, such as ladybug beetles, crickets, and spiders that have made their way indoors.
6. Check attic vents and foundations vents, placing 1/8" hardware cloth or screen behind vent covers to prevent beetles, crickets, spiders, and yellowjackets from making their way in.

Once each of the points of entry have been sealed, monitor for new activity. Though reaching for a pesticide might be tempting, using it will not solve the problem. Taking the time to seal off points of entry is the key to long term success. This will not only keep these nuisance pests out, but it also keeps the cold air out and the heat in. Enjoy a warm, pest-free season!

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600 Montgomery Street, Suite 440 San Francisco, CA 94111