

# DETROIT NATIVE SUN

UNITING &amp; ENLIGHTENING THE COMMUNITY

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## Tips to outsmart bugs in your home

(StatePoint) If you have bugs in your home -- as many households do and the majority worry about -- there may be good reasons for this. Insects are resilient, strategic and way smarter than you may realize.

But before dealing with insect invasions, it's helpful to understand what you're up against.

These surprising bug facts can help you better understand common opponents:

- Cockroaches have the capacity to memorize and learn -- and they may just use those smarts to remember the layout and contents of your kitchen, including hiding spaces! But even without their heads, cockroaches are fairly formidable -- decapitated, they can survive for weeks.

- Once an ant knows where food is located, it'll leave a scented trail to guide others to the source. Ants help each other out in other ways, too. Certain ant species have been observed linking their bodies together to build ladders, chains, walls and even rafts that float in water.

- If your fly-swatting skills leave something to be desired, don't feel bad. Flies can detect danger from all angles and can react four times faster than humans.

Ninety-three percent of respondents said that they're concerned with having bugs inside their home in a recent survey conducted by Zevo -- a maker of bug killer sprays that are safe for use around people and pets when used as directed. Survey respondents also said they see more bugs in their homes as the weather warms. In another recent survey, more than eighty-five percent of people expressed some

level of safety concern with using traditional insecticide sprays inside the home.

According to experts, you don't have to trade one worry (bugs) for another (traditional bug sprays). So how should you deal with creeping, crawling and stinging

invaders? Take a fresh approach to home insect control that you can feel good about with these safe extermination tips:

- Keep common entry points like doors, windows and garages closed. Need a cross-breeze? Install screens on doors and windows.
- Seal cracks around window and door frames, which are both entry points and hiding spaces for bugs.
- Don't stack firewood or scrap wood next to your

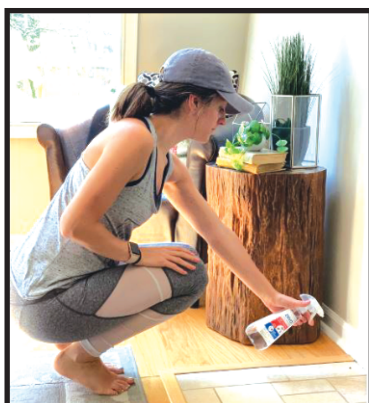
house -- bugs love these havens.

- Avoid leaving food around after meals. Make a habit of prompt clean-ups.

- For bugs you see, use a spray that doesn't contain harsh chemicals, such as Zevo Instant Action Spray. Its active ingredients are essential oils that target nerve receptors active only in insects, so you (and your pets) don't need to leave the room after spraying, as you would with traditional insecticide. Just spray on the roach, ant, fly, wasp or other pesky bug, and wipe up after use.

- For the bugs you don't see, use chemical-free traps in areas heavily trafficked by bugs. Those from Zevo, which plug into outlets around the home, use multi-spectrum light technology and a body heat attractant that mimic nature's most primal powers of attraction. Try to reduce competing light around the traps. Though they work 24/7, flying insects will find the traps especially enticing at night.

Bugs are smart, but with some new strategies, you can safely outsmart them.



## Top tips for moving with a pet



(StatePoint) Your furball is part of the family, so if you're like most, you don't make major life decisions without thinking of your pet's needs -- including where you live and how you move into a new home.

When people decide on new homes and communities, pet priorities are often equal to or more important than human-focused amenities, according to the 2019 Mayflower Mover Insights Survey. American pet owners say one-third of their overall decision to move was related to their pets. What's more, survey respondents cited a willingness to pay significantly more in living costs per month (32 percent) and even forgo perks like shorter commutes and updated kitchens in favor of pet-friendly features.

Pets may get the priority for perks when their humans relocate, but moving is still a stressful activity for animals. Half of pet owners reported their pets struggled to adjust to new homes. However, there's good news: more than nine in 10 owners say their pets adjusted to new settings in less than a month. And, more than 90 percent agree that wherever they and their pets are together is instantly home.

Moving with a pet? Consider the following:

- **Yard Matters:** Dog owners consider yard size 85 percent of the time, and 82 percent of dog and cat owners consider a fenced-in backyard. If you're looking to let your dog off-leash or allow your cat into the yard, prioritize homes with fencing and plenty of space for pets to exercise.

## Using technology to stay cool in summer

(StatePoint) Staying cool in summer is easier than ever thanks to technological innovations that are making homes smarter and their inhabitants more comfortable.

Beat the heat using the latest tech in the following ways:

LED bulbs are more efficient than their incandescent counterparts for a reason -- less energy is expended in the form of heat. Keep your home illuminated without the side effect of adding warmth to rooms by swapping out traditional bulbs for LEDs. You'll be happy to discover it will be a long time before they need to be changed.

A smarter climate control system can keep you more comfortable for less money. In the case of Midea's SmartCool series of window air conditioners, available at

- **Walking Trails:** Don't just consider the house when home-shopping. Look for neighborhoods offering proximity to parks, dog runs, walking trails and other amenities that make dog-walking safe and enjoyable.

- **Scope Out Pet Services:** Try not to leave a gap in veterinary care or pet services. If you're moving far enough away to require a new veterinarian, identify who that will be in advance. If anything arises as you're settling into your new home, you won't want to deal with the added stress of re-searching where to take your sick pet. Likewise, get recommendations for services such as dog walkers, pet sitters or dog boarding so you and your pet can hit the ground running in your new community.

- **Anticipate Bumps:** A move can be difficult on pets -- dog owners reported their dogs had trouble adapting to new neighborhoods, while cats had more trouble adjusting to new houses. Nine out of 10 dog and cat owners recommend being patient, spending more time with pets and showing them where everything is in the new home.

- **Pack Pet Gear Wisely:** Make moving day a breeze by keeping all your pet supplies -- food, medications, etc. packed in an easy-to-access box that's clearly labeled. Consider keeping several days' supply with you and transporting these necessities in your car.

Planning a move? For tips and insights, visit [mayflower.com](http://mayflower.com).

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