

IPM...not just a three letter word
by the Texas A&M Cooperative Extension

IPM. You may often hear the term, but do you actually know what it is? IPM is short for Integrated Pest Management and is the blending of all effective, economical and environmentally sound pest control methods into a single flexible approach to manage pests.

Here are some easy things to reduce the number of pests in your home:

- sweep & vacuum regularly
- use a plastic bag to line garbage cans & remove garbage weekly
- do not leave food out or dishes in the sink overnight
- clean up any spilled food or drink
- remove old newspapers, magazines & books
- clean closets regularly
- do not buy damaged food products
- store food in sealed plastic or glass containers
- clean containers before refilling
- inspect all items for pests before bringing them into the home
- clean drains with a stiff brush & then flush with boiling water
- remove tree stumps from yard
- remove debris (firewood, bricks, stones) away from the home
- keep lawn trimmed
- repair plumbing leaks
- prune tree limbs that overhang or touch the home; also prune shrubs touching the home
- seal entry points on the outside of the home with caulk, expanding foam or steel wool
- keep screens, weather stripping & door thresh holds in good repair
- use yellow bulbs in outside lights to reduce the number of insects coming near doorways

For more information, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.