

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS...



Every spring, whether we like it or not, the creepy-crawlies start to wake up and look for new hangouts. This year, don't wait for trouble to start before you take action. You can keep your pest problems to a minimum with a little preventive maintenance now. Simply follow these tips for season-long control:



- Keep the areas around your home debris-free. Insects will flee the area when food and shelter are scarce.
- Keep your plants trimmed. Large amounts of foliage near your home, especially around windows and doors, serve as an all-tooconvenient walkway for insects to enter your house.
- Seal off all access points. Check and caulk common pest "entrances" like door and window frames, cracks in foundation and siding, utility entry points, attic vents, and around the foundation of the home.



- Use downspout hoses to drain water away from your house.
 Efficient downspouts that keep the area dry help discourage insect infestations because bugs need water to survive.
- Remove any garbage around the foundation of your home quickly. Insects forage through garbage looking for food, and they'll eventually go inside your home with the same intent.
- Then, to really send the bug thugs back where they came from, treat their favorite areas with my **Squeaky Clean Tonic**. Follow up with <u>Total Pest Control</u> at the recommended rate. Spray the

Squeaky Clean Tonic

1 cup of antiseptic mouthwash, 1 cup of chamomile tea, 1 cup of urine, ½ cup of Murphy® Oil Soap, and ½ cup of lemon-scented liquid dish soap.

Mix the ingredients in a large bucket, and pour into a 20 gallon hose-end sprayer.

ground around your house 6 to 10 feet out, up along the surfaces of your house 2 to 4 feet high, and around door and window frames, and all other entry points. This'll build a barrier that will stop pests dead in their tracks.