Fall home pest checklist

A seasonal check for Indianapolis-area homes. Mark completed items and note repairs for a contractor. Prevention steps cannot guarantee pests will stay out.

BEFORE COLD WEATHER

- [ ] Check door sweeps, thresholds, garage-door edges, and weatherstripping; repair gaps that allow light or air through.
- [ ] Inspect window screens and frames; patch holes and replace damaged seals.
- [ ] Check pipe, cable, vent, and utility openings at the foundation and siding. Seal suitable small gaps with materials intended for that surface; ask a qualified contractor about larger openings.
- [ ] Look along the foundation for damp areas, leaks, standing water, clogged downspouts, or soil and mulch against siding. Correct drainage and moisture problems.
- [ ] Move firewood, scrap lumber, and stored materials away from the house and off direct soil contact where practical.
- [ ] Store pantry food, bird seed, and pet food in sturdy containers with tight lids. Clean crumbs and spills; keep garbage covered.
- [ ] Reduce clutter in garages, basements, and utility areas so signs and entry points are easier to spot.
- [ ] Trim plants that press against screens or conceal vulnerable openings; remove fallen fruit near the home.
- [ ] Check attics, basements, crawl spaces, and storage areas for new gaps, moisture, or pest signs. Do not disturb suspected rodent droppings or nests dry.

REPAIRS TO SCHEDULE

Date of next check _____ **Notes** _____

If you find signs

Record what you see without disturbing suspected pests, nests, droppings, or damage. Use the public guidance links before cleanup or treatment decisions.

OBSERVE AND RESPOND

- [ ] Note the date, exact location, and type of sign. Take a photo without disturbing insects, nests, droppings, or suspected damage.
- [ ] For rodent droppings or nests, follow CDC's full cleanup instructions. Never dry sweep or vacuum them. For heavy contamination or HVAC access, get professional guidance.
- [ ] For suspected termites, distinguish winged insects or shed wings from building evidence. Save a photo/specimen and request an inspection if swarmers are indoors, wings collect indoors, or mud tubes are present.
- [ ] For stink bugs, avoid crushing them; repair likely entry points and remove occasional indoor insects without releasing them back inside.
- [ ] If hiring help, ask for a written scope, total and recurring costs, visit schedule, contract/cancellation terms, retreatment conditions, and applicable credential information. In OISC's Search OISC Databases page, choose "License Applicators, Inspectors and Businesses" to check the business/applicator record.

NOTES AND FOLLOW-UP

SOURCES

CDC · How to Seal Up to Prevent Rodents
Purdue Extension · Fall Home Invaders
Purdue Extension · Termite Control
CDC · How to Clean Up After Rodents
OISC · Search OISC Databases (choose License Applicators, Inspectors and Businesses)