Follow these steps:

If you know what to do, you can avoid most pest problems in your home.

Control pests by:
- Proactively identifying and monitoring pest problems
- Sanitizing and keeping your home clean
- Excluding pests by sealing entry points
- Controlling pests with non-chemical methods first, then using pesticides if necessary

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Other pests in the ISEC Home Pest Management series:
- Ants
- Carpenter Ants
- Spiders
- Small Mammals
- Small Flies
- Silverfish
- Scorpions
- Pantry Pests
- Fleas
- Cockroaches

In your home, pest problems can avoid most, if you know what to do.
If carpenter ants are a problem in your home...

**Identify:**
- Properly identify the ant. Most carpenter ants are ¼ to ½ inch long and red, black, or red and black.
- Follow ant trails to locate the nest. This is easiest to do in the evening when the ants are most active. Carpenter ants usually nest in rotted tree stumps.
- Look for "kick-out holes" (small holes in the wood) and piles of coarse sawdust, insect parts, and other trash. This is a sign of carpenter ants and other pests.
- Replace rotted or water-damaged wood.
- Remove tree stumps from the yard.
- Prune bushes and tree branches away from the house. Be careful not to let overhanging tree branches touch the roof. This is an easy way for carpenter ants to enter your home.

**Exclude:**
- Use caulk or steel wool to seal openings around plumbing pipes and any other openings where pests can enter your home. This is an easy way to let overhanging tree branches away from the house and prevent ants from entering.
- Fill tree holes with sand or mortar.
- Fill tree stumps from the yard.

**Control:**
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**Sanitize:**
- Sanitize or replace the wood. Space between your home and the ground is critical when using pesticides. Ants can easily enter the house through small gaps.

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