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

1. Identify and monitor the pest.
2. Sanitize and keep your home clean.
3. Exclude pests by sealing entry points.
4. Control pests by trying non-chemical methods first, then using pesticides if necessary.

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- Control pests by trying non-chemical methods first, then using pesticides if necessary.
Identify:

- Properly identify the pest. If you don't see the animal, you may be able to identify it by the droppings and tracks it leaves behind. Here are some common small mammals that might cause problems in or near your home.

Sanitize:

- Make sure the animals have left. Leave food to seal any holes small mammals are able to identity by the droppings
- Use sheet metal, hardware cloth or other small mammals can be
- Place rodent traps perpendicular to the trap when passing over it. Place rodent traps perpendicular to the wall so the rodent will trigger the trap. Use traps periodically or after insects are killed off for long periods of time.

Control:

- If small mammals are a problem in your home...

Exclude:

- Skunk
  - Do not leave outside doors open.
  - Place wire mesh screening over vents in eaves and in the attic, and around the foundation, to keep wild animals from moving into the attic or under your home.
  - Use sheet metal, hardware cloth or steel wool to seal any holes small mammals have gnawed to enter your home. Make sure the animals have left before sealing the holes.
- Rat
  - Keep stored items off the floor and away from walls.
  - Remove trash, firewood, stones, bricks and any other debris near your home.
  - Prune bushes and tree branches away from the house.
  - Repair plumbing leaks.
  - Keep yard debris, such as leaves, away from the house.
  - Make sure outdoor trash cans have tight-fitting lids.

- Armadillo
  - Store food, pet food and bird seed in glass, metal or heavy plastic containers with tight-fitting lids.

- Mouse
  - Place bird feeders on tall metal poles. Place bird feeders on tall metal poles.

- Squirrel
  - Use traps to seal any holes small mammals are able to identify by the droppings

- Snake
  - Keep stored items off the floor and away from walls.

- Remove trash, firewood, stones, bricks and any other debris near your home.

- Prune bushes and tree branches away from the house.

- Repair plumbing leaks.

Before you buy or use any pesticide:

- Read the label carefully. Be sure the product is labeled for the site and the pest you will treat.

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- If small mammals remain a problem, hire a professional pest control service.

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