

Keeping Occasional Invaders Out

The majority of insects we find inside structures originate from outside. Many get in accidentally, and when conditions are favorable, they can complete some or all of their life cycle indoors.

Millipedes

- Dark, hard-shelled, cylindrical, worm-like bodies that can curl up
- 2 pairs of legs per body segment
- Decomposers of decaying leaves and other organic matter

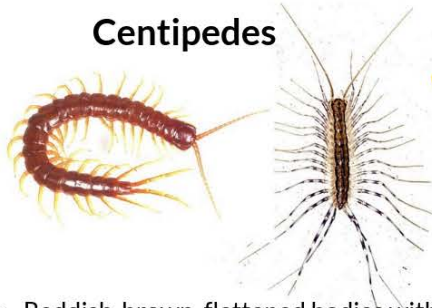


Ground beetles

- Dark, hard-shelled bodies and sometimes metallic
- Rarely fly, but can run quickly
- Predators of small insects both as adults and larvae



Centipedes



- Reddish-brown, flattened bodies with long legs and antennae
- Scurry rapidly with 1 pair of legs per body segment
- Predators of small insects and spiders

Often seasonal (fall)
Many are nocturnal
Looking for food, moisture, shelter
Little/no damage in small numbers
Can invade in large numbers
Considered nuisance pests



Field crickets



- Dark bodies with modified jumping hind legs
- Males produce chirping sounds with their wings
- Omnivorous scavengers that consume plant and animal matter

Wolf spiders



- Body size, patterns, and color vary but always have 8 eyes in 3 rows
- Active hunters and do not spin webs
- Predators of small insects and other spiders

Stop occasional invaders by changing conditions that attract them and allow entry into the building



Change outdoor lighting to warm colored (yellow/orange) LED bulbs or yellow "bug lights"



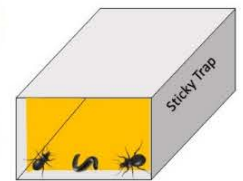
Seal entry points under and around exterior doors, windows, and utility openings



Sweep and vacuum frequently to reduce insect food sources for predators



Reduce vegetation, leaf litter, and clutter around the foundation to decrease hiding spots



Use insect sticky traps to monitor and reduce the number of indoor pests

Residual insecticides applied to the exterior perimeter of the structure may help if done correctly. Be sure to read and follow the label or contact a professional pest control company for best results.