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Effective Pest Control

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Many of us have been in this situation. A bunch of insects appear in our home or lawn, and we call a professional pest control company. That should take care of everything, right? This isn't necessarily the case. Although pesticides are effective at eliminating insects, weeds, rodents, and fungus, they should not be the sole method for pest management for many reasons. Pests can develop resistance to pesticides when the same pesticide is continually used in the same situation. Since pesticides are poisons, it may be unhealthy to have them in the indoor and outdoor environments in high amounts. Pesticides break down over time and are not longer effective. In order to maximize the efforts of pest control companies, you can implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, which includes sanitation, exclusion, and cultural practices.

Sanitation practices will help you have maximum pest control effectiveness indoors. The first step is to not provide food for insects by keeping the kitchen clean. Any areas that come in contact with food, such as counters and stovetops, should be wiped down with warm, soapy water. Keep food in sealed containers, especially foods that contain sugar. Opening a bag of cookies and finding it infested with ants isn't an enjoyable experience. If you find infested food, throw it out immediately and check other nearby food products because beetles and moths like cereals, rice, and other grains. Another sanitation measure is to prevent standing water where molds and fungi like to live. These organisms are food sources for some insects. This practice is very important because pesticides will not provide sufficient control until the moisture problem has been cleared up.

Another IPM method is to keep the pests outside of the house where they belong. You need to think like an insect while performing a visual inspection of your house. Look for places both big and tiny that insects and other pests may use to find a way into your home, such as holes and cracks around windows, in screens, along baseboards, and around doors. If you find any openings, repair them as soon as possible.

Pest control products, such as baits, traps, repellents, and glue boards, may also be used in the home. Although these products are not as strong as the pesticides that professional companies apply, they may be helpful in some situations. Since some of the products are made of plastic and are designed to be placed in the home for weeks, they need to be used with caution if you have small children or pets because they may be mistaken for a toy. If any commercial pesticide is used, read and follow all label directions.

To help reduce pest infestations in your landscape, properly fertilize, irrigate, and mow the lawn. These practices will help make your lawn healthy and less attractive to insects, weeds, and other pests. If a professional landscaper cares for your landscape, you should talk with them about how you can work together to achieve the best pest control. Your local county extension service can provide you with information about proper cultural control practices for your grass species and ornamental plants.

Insects, weeds, and other pests are just a part of living in Florida. They like the climate just as much as the state's residents. By implementing IPM methods, you can help your pest control company in the fight against those persistent pests.