

New to the Poconos?

Here are some strategies to help you keep your family & pets safe from pests and vector-borne disease:

- Keep your lawn cut --- to discourage rodents from spending time in your yard by eliminating cover for them, and allowing predators like owls and hawks to find and eat them
- Open up wooded areas to sunlight --- to dry out the understory and make it inhospitable to ticks
- Stack firewood up off the ground --- to discourage rodents from nesting underneath
- Use repellents year-round when outdoors --- non-DEET formulations for children & permethrin products for clothing and camping equipment
- Treat your yard for ticks & fleas every spring & fall --- when they are the most dangerous
- Remove all objects that can hold rainwater --- to eliminate mosquito breeding
- Get your dogs checked and treated for heartworm --- carried by local mosquitoes
- Don't leave pet food outside overnight --- it attracts raccoons, bears, and skunks
- Keep up with all veterinary immunizations for pets that go outdoors
- Never enter a sealed building without first airing it out completely --- to kill Hanta virus particles that can be airborne from rodent droppings
- Use tight-lidded containers for garbage --- and put it out near the time the trash collector is due to avoid having it opened by raccoons or bears
- Feed birds away from house --- to avoid attracting rodents and bears to the house
- Avoid using mulch close to the house and parking areas --- "artillery" or "cannon" fungus will grow in older mulch and explode, staining siding and car finishes
- Keep plantings away from the house --- they provide harborage for pest animals and runways for insects directly into your walls
- Make sure that around the attic access door is sealed to keep bats from entering the living space from the attic --- the same goes for around the chimney and fireplace
- Containerize all garbage --- garbage attracts rodents, and rodents attract snakes