

Hiring a Pest Control Professional

Before hiring a pest control professional, do some research. Identify the pest. If you are not certain of the pest's identity, contact your local Cooperative Extension office or county agricultural commissioner's office.

Obtain recommendations from neighbors, friends, or family about pest control services they have used. Call at least three companies and consider their methods as well as their customer service policy. For example, are there fewer toxic alternatives available? Do they provide monthly spray contracts, or do they offer an Integrated Pest management (IPM) approach that includes monitoring for pest activity and using non-chemical and low toxicity chemical controls?

The company should ask to inspect the site to properly diagnose the problem. This is important for them to properly diagnose the problem. The company should provide you with a detailed explanation about the products they plan to apply to the area, as well as safety precautions such as protecting pets and children.

Consider your chemical tolerance. Ask which pesticides will be used, the active ingredients they contain, and their effects on pets, the environment, and people—especially the elderly, the very young, or persons with environmental sensitivities.

Be sure to review the contract to ensure your pest problem will be controlled properly.

After hiring the company, make sure to stay in touch to ensure that you are getting the proper care. Do not be afraid to ask questions.

It will be necessary to do your part. This may involve cleaning up cluttered areas or removing open food sources in the home at all times.

