



1. Vegetable Oil Spray

To make a basic oil spray insecticide, mix one cup of vegetable oil with one tablespoon of soap (cover and shake thoroughly), and then when ready to apply, add two teaspoons of the oil spray mix with one quart of water, shake thoroughly, and spray directly on the surfaces of the plants which are being affected by the little pests.

2. Soap Spray

To make a basic soap spray insecticide, mix one and one-half teaspoons of a mild liquid soap (such as [castile soap](#)) with one quart of water, and spray the mixture directly on the infected surfaces of the plants.

A soap spray insecticide works in a similar fashion as an oil spray pesticide, and can be applied as necessary (though it is always recommended to NOT apply it during the hot sunny part of the day, but rather in the evenings or early mornings).

3. Neem Oil Spray

Neem oil acts as a hormone disruptor and as an "antifeedant" for insects that feed on leaves and other plant parts. Neem oil is biodegradable and is nontoxic to pets, birds, fish, and other wildlife, and is effective against a variety of common garden insect pests, as well as being a natural fungicide that can combat powder mildew and other fungal infections on plants.

To use neem oil as an insecticide, either follow the instructions on the bottle, or start out with a basic mixture of two teaspoons neem oil and one teaspoon of mild liquid soap shaken thoroughly with one quart of water, and then sprayed on the affected plant foliage. Neem oil can also be used preventatively by spraying the leaves of plants that are often ravaged by pests, before they're actually infested.

4. Garlic Spray

Garlic is well-known for its pungent aroma, which is delectable to some and yet repellent to others, and it is this strong scent that comes into play when used as a natural insecticide. Actually, it's not really clear if garlic spray and chile spray (below) are actually insecticides or are more likely insect repellents, but either way, these common kitchen ingredients can be used to knock down, or even knock out, insect infestations in the garden.

To make a basic garlic spray, take two whole bulbs (not just two cloves) and puree them in a blender or food processor with a small amount of water. Let the mixture sit overnight, then strain it into a quart jar, adding one-half cup of vegetable oil (optional), one teaspoon of mild liquid soap, and enough water to fill the jar. To use this homemade insecticide, use one cup of mixture with one quart of water and spray liberally on infested plants.

5. Chile Pepper Spray

Similar to garlic spray, chile pepper spray is a great homemade natural insect repellent that can be used for a variety of different pests. Chile spray can be made from either fresh hot peppers or chile pepper powder.

To make a basic chile spray from pepper powder, mix one tablespoon of chile powder with one quart of water and several drops of mild liquid soap. This mixture can be used full-strength on the leaves of affected plants. To make chile spray from fresh chile peppers, blend or puree one-half cup of peppers with one cup of water, then add one quart of water and bring to a boil. Let sit until cooled, then strain out the chile material, add several drops of liquid soap to it and spray as desired.

Natural Pest Control Remedies for Your Home

1. Coffee Grounds

Those [coffee grounds](#) are good for more than just a cup of coffee. Try using your leftover coffee grounds in spots around the outside of your home where you think pests are coming in. Many critters can't stand the smell of the grounds and will steer clear. You can also use coffee grounds to [critter-proof your garden](#).

2. Banana

Are aphids taking over your garden? Just place a banana peel under the soil near the stems of your plants. This will not only deter the bugs, but it will add some nutrients to the soil. [Try these tips for getting rid of garden weeds](#).

3. Apple Cider Vinegar

If those pesky fruit flies are invading your kitchen, grab a small bowl and pour in a little apple cider vinegar. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and punch a couple pencil-lead-sized holes in the plastic. The fruit flies will be attracted to the vinegar and they can get in but not out. [Vinegar can also be used to make a natural cleaner](#).

4. Cornmeal

Seeing ants? Place small piles of cornmeal down wherever you see ants. Ants like to eat the cornmeal and they will take it back to their colony but they can't digest it. It may take a few days to work, but if you have pets, it's a [non-toxic solution](#). [Learn 17 pet care and safety tips](#).

5. White Vinegar

Ants leave a trail which makes it easier for other ants from the colony to find their way to food. To wash away the trail, use a solution made from 1/4 cup white vinegar, 2 cups water and 10 drops of peppermint or eucalyptus oil. Some oils can also be used to [clean furniture and fight odors](#).

6. Fresh Herbs

Mosquitoes crash your backyard bonfire? Throw some fresh rosemary or sage on the coals to keep mosquitoes away. [Follow these tips to build an outdoor fire pit](#).

7. Essential Oils

Make your own dust mite repellent spray with [essential oils](#). Mix eucalyptus, lavender, clove or peppermint oil with water in a spray bottle. Use it to mist furniture and linens and allow the spray to air dry. [Follow these tips to clean your rugs and rid them of dust mites](#).

8. Basil

Sweet basil not only works great in recipes, but it also wards off flies, making it one of the best patio plants. Just plant a pot of sweet basil and place in a sunny spot next to a frequently used door. There are many edible plants you can [grow in pots and containers if you have a small space](#).

9. Onion

It may be an old wives' tale, but it works. To [keep spiders away](#), slice up some onions and toss them in a bowl of water. Place the bowl where spiders enter your home and they'll stay away. [Prevent other pests from getting in your home this fall with these tips](#).

10. Cloves

If ladybugs are taking over an area of your home, place some bags of cloves or sprinkle some clove oil in heavily infested areas. Ladybugs don't like strong scents and will evacuate quickly. Then vacuum or sweep up the cloves. [Try these tips to get rid of Japanese Beetles in your garden](#).