

A Pest-Proofing Checklist for Your Backyard



Turner
Pest Control

Simple tips that can help reduce mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, fire ants and wasps around your yard

Florida's warm, humid climate keeps many outdoor pests active throughout the year. Regular backyard maintenance can help reduce the conditions that attract mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, fire ants, wasps, and other pests. Use this checklist each month to help stay ahead of potential problems.



Water & Drainage

- ☐ Empty standing water after every rainstorm (gutters, flowerpots, toys, tarps)
- ☐ Check bird baths and pet water bowls — change water every 2-3 days
- ☐ Clear clogged gutters and downspouts
- ☐ Fix low spots in the yard where water pools



Structures & Play Areas

- ☐ Inspect decks, eaves, sheds, and outdoor furniture for wasp nests
- ☐ Check swing sets and playground equipment before kids use them
- ☐ Wear closed-toe shoes in areas where fire ant mounds are active
- ☐ Address new fire ant mounds as soon as they appear



Lawn & Landscaping

- ☐ Mow regularly and maintain the recommended height for your grass type
- ☐ Trim shrubs and remove overgrowth along fence lines and property edges
- ☐ Clear yard debris (leaf piles, brush, wood stacks) where pests shelter
- ☐ Keep grass short around play equipment and walkways
- ☐ Keep wood piles and stored materials off the ground and away from the home



Pets

- ☐ Check pets for ticks after walks or time outdoors
- ☐ Keep pets out of tall grass and wooded areas when possible
- ☐ Use veterinarian-recommended flea and tick prevention products
- ☐ Watch for fleas even with prevention products in place — wildlife can reintroduce them outdoors



How to Check Yourself for Ticks

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| ☐ Scalp and hairline | ☐ Behind the knees |
| ☐ Behind and inside the ears | ☐ Between the legs |
| ☐ Underarms | ☐ Between toes and around the ankles |
| ☐ Waistband and belly button | |

After spending time in grass, brush or wooded areas, check your body carefully for ticks and shower soon after coming indoors. If you find an attached tick, use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp it close to the skin and pull upward with steady pressure.

Clean the area afterward. If you develop a rash, fever, or other symptoms following a tick bite, contact your healthcare provider.



When to Call Turner

These simple habits can make your yard less inviting to pests, but some problems aren't easy to spot or prevent on your own. If you're noticing recurring mosquito activity, ticks, fleas, fire ant mounds, wasp nests or other pest concerns, Turner can help identify what's happening and recommend the right next steps.

Schedule a free inspection to get expert eyes on your property and help prevent small pest problems from becoming bigger ones.