

Pest Management

- **Prevention first:** only buy healthy plants & pick the right spot, proper care – don't overwater or overcrowd, examine plants regularly, keep clean, use sterile potting soil (don't re-use infected) – hygiene.
- **Identify & respond early.** Inspect top & underside of leaves, stems. Isolate infested plant. Research. Ask friends or experts – university websites.
- **Common pests:** spider mites, mealy bugs, aphids, scale, white fly, gnats
- **Mechanical options:** clean infested plant carefully and thoroughly. Spray with water. Remove with hand. Use tweezers, ear buds or cotton balls. Repot. Prune. Discard as last resort.
- **Chemical options:** insecticidal soaps, Dr Bronners, Neem oil, plant oil extracts, methylated spirits, microbial insecticide, pyrethrins (?), yellow sticky traps.



Image credit: <https://www.vulcantermite.com/education-and-prevention/how-to-keep-insects-out-of-houseplants/>