

# 5 Natural Ways

To Get Rid of

# House

# Crickets

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# How to Get Rid of House Crickets

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In some cultures, the cricket is revered. In many movies, their chirping songs are used as a backdrop to romance and love stories. The sound of crickets might even be a bit comforting when you are alone and gazing at the stars on a summer night. When the crickets are in your home, however, and their chirping is keeping you up at night, they lose their charm and mystique very quickly.



# Life Cycle of House Crickets

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Before falling prey to old age during the late summer periods, crickets are known for popping out their eggs in the soil. The egg subsequently spend the winter in the soil and nymphs later emerge from their eggs in late spring.

Nymph crickets are easily identified as they bear resemblance to adult crickets, but lack wings. They also gorge on the same type of food. After/roughly 90 days, the nymphs will take their place in the animal world (or human world) as adults.



# Types of Crickets

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## Indian House Crickets

The Indian House Cricket boasts a light yellowish-brown semblance with darker 'bands and spots'. It's approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long (after hitting maturity) and is troublesome home invaders. As they commonly gather outdoors around foundations, they can easily enter your home through cracks, crevices, or your own mistake in leaving the doors open.



# Types of Crickets

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## Indian House Crickets

*(Cont'd)*

Indian House Crickets find indoors hospitable and may be just the only species that can reside indoors and produce and rear young ones there. While dormant during the day time, they do parade at nights to sing your favorite lullaby or snack on crumbs left behind, steal your pet's food, and plant debris.



# Types of Crickets

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## Indian House Crickets

*(Cont'd)*

Indian House Crickets are principally problematic as they are nuisances. To attract female crickets, the males would go out to chirp everlastingly. This has proven annoying to homeowners as they are deprived of precious rest. Oddly, male crickets produce their sound or 'mating' call by rubbing their wings together. How strangely unique and awesome is that?!



# Types of Crickets

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## Field Crickets

Field Crickets are usually an inch bigger than Indian House Crickets when mature. They bear a 'dark brown to shiny black' hue. Though dubbed 'field' crickets, these critters have also entered building and homes. Diametrically opposed to the Indian House Cricket, Field Crickets prefer to reside and produce their young critters outdoors. This is because of the variety of plant foods available.



# Types of Crickets

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## Field Crickets

*(Cont'd)*

However, they do occasionally pop up at your home in search of a 'safe' hiding place, but they don't reproduce there. Field Crickets are infamous for voraciously feeding on damaged cottons, synthetic fabrics, woollens, carpeting, and furs.





# Types of Crickets

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## Jerusalem Crickets

*(Cont'd)*

Jerusalem crickets are seldom found in Arizona. As their big, spherical head and two small beady black eyes make them look like small children, Jerusalem Crickets are commonly referred to as 'children of the earth.'

Jerusalem crickets have a pale yellow to brown color. As adults, they are wingless with large, stout legs. They do have spines at the tips which are used for burrowing into the soil. They are active during the nights and are rarely seen, except when dug up by gardeners in the soil.



# Types of Crickets

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## Jerusalem Crickets

*(Cont'd)*

Jerusalem Crickets cause no significant problems (at least not known) in comparison to other crickets. However, they are beneficial predators, as they catch and eat many other insects and spiders. While they are mainly harmless creatures, they may bite when handled in a careless manner. They do not invade homes.



# How to Get Rid of Crickets within the Home

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## Diatomaceous Earth

While this item might be a bit hard to pronounce, it's an extremely safe and effective insect killer. It is absolutely harmless to people and pets, but totally lethal to insects. Found in most home improvement or garden stores, diatomaceous earth is a fine powder than can be sprinkled around areas where you've got a problem.

When the crickets come into contact with it, simply by walking through it, it causes small cuts and scratches in their exoskeleton which leads to dehydration, and ultimately their death.



# How to Get Rid of Crickets within the Home

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## Glue Traps

Glue traps used for mice and rats can be used as very effective house cricket traps. Simply place a bit of bait in the middle of the traps and put it in any area where you've seen crickets. They will come to feed on the bait and get stuck. Simply throw out the traps when they become full. A bit of cornmeal in the center of the traps works great for bait.



# How to Get Rid of Crickets within the Home

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## Molasses Traps

House crickets are attracted to the sweet smell of molasses. You can make traps with 2-liter soda bottles or glass jars that you don't need. To use a soda bottle, simply cut the bottle in half and throw out the top. Mix 1 part molasses with 10 parts water and fill the bottle half way. Using a glass jar, the same, fill it about halfway. Set the trap out in an area where you've seen crickets and they will jump in the water, following the scent of the molasses, and drown.



# How to Get Rid of Crickets within the Home

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## Bottle Trap

Beer is also an effective bait for crickets. If you leave an open beer bottle laying on it's side in an area with crickets, they will often crawl in, but have difficulty getting back out. This can be a very effective and cheap trap if you already drink beer from bottles and happen to have some around. Just leave a small amount of beer in the bottom of the bottle and lay it on its side wherever you've seen the crickets.



# How to Get Rid of Crickets within the Home

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## Essential Oils

Essential oils made from thyme, rosemary, and sage are common natural pesticides that will kill and repel crickets. If you know exactly where your cricket problem is coming from, eugenol (a derivative of clove oil) will kill crickets on contact. Spray this on any bugs that you see, and try to get it into any cracks or crevices where you suspect they might be hiding.



Thanks for Reading!

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