How to get rid of house centipedes

How to Get Rid of House Centipedes: A Comprehensive Guide

I. This guide is structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of house centipedes, their eradication, and preventative measures. It moves from practical solutions to broader contextual information. II. Descriptions: 1. **:** Briefly introduce house centipedes, their characteristics, why they infest homes, and the overall goal of the guide: complete eradication. Mention the guide's scope – encompassing preventative measures and various removal strategies. 2. **Understanding House Centipedes :** Detail centipede biology – appearance, habitat preferences, diet (other insects), life cycle, and common misconceptions (e.g., venom danger). Include high-quality images. 3. *Identifying an Infestation :* Explain how to spot house centipedes – signs of presence (exuviae, sightings), locations in the house they frequent, and the magnitude of infestation. 4. *Non-Toxic Methods :* Focus on safe and environmentally friendly removal: • Physical removal: Using vacuums, traps, and manual capture (emphasize safety precautions). • *Environmental modifications:* Reducing humidity, sealing cracks, eliminating insect prey. 5. Chemical Control Methods (250 words): Discuss pesticide use as a last resort: • **Types of insecticides:** Explain different products and their efficacy. • Application methods: Safe and effective insecticide spray, bait, dust application. • Safety precautions: Protective gear, ventilation, proper disposal. 6. **Preventing Future Infestations :** Detail preventative measures: • *Home maintenance:* Sealing entry points, decluttering, regular cleaning. • *Landscape management:* Reducing moisture around the house, eliminating potential prey. 7. **Professional Pest Control :** Discuss when professional help is needed and what to expect from a pest control service. Include tips for selecting a reputable company. 8. **Dealing with Bites :** Address the rare occurrences of centipede bites, alleviate fears, describe symptoms and treatment (first aid). 9. **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) :** Answer common reader questions about house centipedes and control methods. 10. Conclusion : Summarize key control methods, reinforce the importance of preventative measures, and offer encouragement. **III.** House centipede, centipede removal, pest control, insect control, home pest control, get rid of centipedes, house centipede infestation, centipede prevention, non-toxic centipede control, centipede bites, insecticide, pest control services. IV. Analysis of Current Trends: Discuss the increasing prevalence of house centipedes due to urbanization, climate change (altered rainfall patterns), and increased awareness of infestations through online resources. Analyze trends in DIY pest control vs. professional services, and the shift toward eco-friendly methods. Examine how social media influences perceptions and solutions to infestations. **V. International Perspectives:** Explore how different cultures and regions approach house centipede infestations. Highlight varying levels of awareness, cultural attitudes towards pests, and the availability of different control methods. Discuss regional variations in centipede species and their control strategies. VI. This guide provides a complete strategy for eliminating and preventing house centipede infestations. It combines practical advice with an understanding of centipede biology and international perspectives on pest control. The guide emphasizes safe, humane, and environmentally sound methods, while also acknowledging the role of professional pest control services when necessary. **VII. 20** 1. Terrified of house centipedes? Learn how to banish them for good! 2. House centipedes invading? Safe & effective removal methods inside! 3. Say goodbye to creepy crawlies! Non-toxic solutions for centipedes. 4. Prevent house centipede infestations with these simple tips. 5. Ultimate guide to house centipede control: natural & chemical. 6. Is it a centipede bite? Treatment & prevention advice here. 7. House centipedes: identification, prevention, and removal. 8. Eradicate house centipedes: a step-by-step guide. 9. Don't panic! Effective ways to get rid of house centipedes. 10. House centipede problems? Expert advice inside. 11. Natural ways to banish house centipedes from your home. 12. Chemical vs. natural: the best ways to eliminate centipedes. 13. Complete guide to house centipede control & prevention. 14. Discover the secrets to a centipede-free home. 15. House centipedes: understanding their behavior & habits. 16. Effective strategies to prevent and eliminate house

centipedes. 17. House centipedes: conquer your fear and reclaim your home. 18. A step-by-step guide to effective house centipede removal. 19. Worried about centipede bites? This guide offers peace of mind. 20. Get rid of house centipedes today! Safe and easy solutions.

The Creepy Crawly Conundrum: How to Get Rid of House Centipedes

There's something undeniably unsettling about encountering a house centipede. That sudden scurrying in the corner of your eye, the elongated body with its many legs, the sheer *speed* at which they can disappear. For many, it's a primal reaction of "nope!" and an immediate desire to evict these unwelcome guests. If you've found yourself battling these multi-legged intruders in your home, you're not alone. House centipedes are common household pests, and while they're generally harmless (and even beneficial, as they prey on other pests!), their appearance can be a significant cause of distress. But before you panic and reach for the strongest insecticide, let's take a breath. Getting rid of house centipedes doesn't have to be a chemical warfare campaign. In fact, the most effective strategies involve understanding *why* they're in your home in the first place and making your living space less appealing to them. This comprehensive guide will walk you through everything you need to know, from identifying these creatures to implementing long-term prevention tactics.

Understanding Your Uninvited Guest: What Exactly is a House Centipede?

Before we dive into removal methods, let's get acquainted with our adversary. The house centipede (*Scutigera coleoptrata*) is a common arthropod found in homes worldwide. Despite their intimidating appearance, they are not venomous to humans and won't bite unless provoked (and even then, their bite is negligible, akin to a bee sting, if that). What's striking about them is their anatomy: a flattened, segmented body with one pair of legs per segment, and a final pair that's elongated and resembles antennae. They can grow up to an inch or more in length, and their speed is legendary. They are nocturnal hunters, primarily feeding on other insects and spiders, making them natural pest control agents. So, in a way, seeing a house centipede might indicate you have *other* pests lurking around.

Why Are They In My House? The Root Causes of Centipede Infestations

The primary reason house centipedes seek refuge in our homes is simple: they're looking for food and moisture. They thrive in damp, dark environments where their prey is abundant. If you're seeing more than just the occasional straggler, it's a strong signal that your home is offering them a comfortable habitat. * **Moisture is Key:** Centipedes need moisture to survive. Leaky pipes, dripping faucets, condensation in bathrooms and kitchens, damp basements and crawl spaces – these are all prime real estate for centipedes. Areas with high humidity are particularly attractive. * **A Buffet of Pests:** As mentioned, house centipedes are predators. If you have a population of smaller insects like silverfish, cockroaches, spiders, or even other centipedes, you're essentially providing a five-star dining experience for your unwanted guests. * **Entry Points Galore:** These agile creatures can squeeze through remarkably small openings. Cracks in foundations, gaps around windows and doors, vents, and utility line entry points are all potential entryways into your home.

The Battle Plan: Effective Methods to Get Rid of House

Centipedes

Now for the actionable part! Getting rid of house centipedes involves a multi-pronged approach: immediate removal, eliminating their food sources, and, most importantly, addressing the environmental factors that attract them.

Immediate Relief: Dealing with the Centipede You See

Let's be honest, when you see one, you want it gone *now*. * **The Cup and Paper Method:** This classic technique is humane and effective. Place a cup or glass over the centipede, carefully slide a piece of paper underneath to trap it, and then carry it outside. Release it far from your home. * **Vacuum Cleaner:** For the squeamish or those in a hurry, a vacuum cleaner can be a quick solution. Just be sure to empty the vacuum bag or canister outdoors immediately afterward to prevent them from escaping back into your home. * **Sticky Traps:** These can be placed in areas where you frequently see centipedes. They're not the most visually appealing, but they can be effective in catching them. Place them along baseboards and in corners.

Long-Term Victory: Prevention is Key

While immediate removal is satisfying, the real goal is to prevent them from entering and thriving in your home in the first place. This is where addressing the root causes becomes crucial.

Eliminating Moisture: The First Line of Defense

Reducing humidity and eliminating dampness is perhaps the single most effective strategy for centipede control. * **Fix Leaks Promptly:** Inspect pipes, faucets, and appliances for any signs of leaks. Repair them immediately. Even small drips can create enough moisture to attract centipedes. * **Improve Ventilation:** Ensure proper ventilation in bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms. Use exhaust fans when showering or cooking. * **Dehumidify Damp Areas:** Basements and crawl spaces are notorious for moisture buildup. Invest in a dehumidifier for these areas. Aim to keep humidity levels below 50%. * **Check for Condensation:** Regularly check for condensation on windows, pipes, and walls. Address the cause, whether it's poor insulation or inadequate ventilation. * **Address Exterior Drainage:** Ensure that water drains away from your foundation. Clean out gutters and downspouts regularly, and consider landscaping that slopes away from your house.

Cutting Off the Food Supply: Pest Control for Your Home

If centipedes have a plentiful food source, they have no reason to leave. By controlling other insect populations, you're making your home less appealing. * **General Pest Control:** This is where regular cleaning and decluttering come into play. Vacuum regularly, especially in corners and under furniture, to remove crumbs and potential hiding spots for smaller insects. * **Seal Entry Points for Other Pests:** Address any cracks and crevices in your walls, foundations, and around pipes where smaller insects might be entering. * **Reduce Spider Populations:** Since spiders are a food source, controlling them will indirectly help with centipedes. Use sticky traps or natural spider repellents. * **Don't Leave Food Out:** Store food in airtight containers and clean up spills and crumbs immediately.

Sealing Entry Points: Fortifying Your Home

Preventing centipedes from entering your home is crucial. * **Caulk Cracks and Gaps:** Inspect the exterior of your home for any cracks or openings in the foundation, walls, and around windows and doors. Seal them with caulk. * **Weatherstrip Doors and Windows:** Ensure that weatherstripping is intact and creating a tight seal to prevent entry. * **Install Screens:** Make sure all window and door screens are in good repair and free of holes. * **Check Utility Entry Points:** Seal any gaps around pipes, wires, and vents that enter your home.

Natural Repellents and Deterrents

While not a primary solution, some natural methods can help deter centipedes. * **Essential Oils:** Some essential oils, like peppermint, tea tree oil, and eucalyptus oil, are believed to have repellent properties. Mix a few drops with water in a spray bottle and mist areas where you've seen centipedes. * **Diatomaceous Earth (Food Grade):** This natural powder can be sprinkled in areas where centipedes travel. It works by dehydrating them. Be sure to use food-grade diatomaceous earth and avoid inhaling the dust. * **Cedar Chips:** Some people find that scattering cedar chips in basements or crawl spaces can deter centipedes.

When to Call the Professionals

While most house centipede issues can be managed with DIY methods, there are times when professional pest control might be necessary. * **Severe Infestations:** If you're seeing a large number of centipedes despite your best efforts, it might indicate a more significant underlying pest problem or a substantial moisture issue that requires professional assessment. * **Persistent Problems:** If you've tried multiple prevention strategies and are still struggling to control the centipede population, a pest control professional can identify the source of the problem and recommend more aggressive solutions. * **Underlying Structural Issues:** If the infestation is linked to significant structural damage or persistent water intrusion, a professional can help diagnose and address these issues.

Living in Harmony (Sort Of): Long-Term Coexistence** Ultimately, the goal isn't necessarily to achieve a centipede-free home (which is nearly impossible), but rather to keep their numbers in check and prevent them from becoming a nuisance. By consistently addressing moisture issues, maintaining good sanitation, and sealing entry points, you can create a less hospitable environment for these creatures. Remember, they are part of the natural ecosystem, and a few occasional visitors might be unavoidable. The key to successfully getting rid of house centipedes lies in understanding their needs and making your home a less attractive place for them to live, feed, and breed. By implementing these strategies, you can reclaim your living space and say goodbye to those unsettling scurrying encounters. Happy pest-proofing!

Getting Rid of House Centipedes: A Comprehensive Guide House centipedes are common unwelcome guests in many homes, often appearing suddenly and triggering unease among residents. These elongated arthropods, with their numerous legs and distinctive movement, thrive in damp, concealed environments like basements, bathrooms, and crawl spaces. While they are not poisonous and rarely cause harm, their presence can be unsettling, prompting homeowners to seek effective and lasting solutions to eliminate them. Understanding their behavior and habitat preferences is the first step toward reclaiming a centipede-free home. Centipedes are predators that feed on smaller insects such as ants, spiders, and cockroaches, helping maintain a natural

balance indoors. However, when moisture levels rise and hiding spots multiply—such as in cluttered corners, under sinks, or behind wallboards—they multiply rapidly. Their preference for cool, humid conditions means that seasonal shifts or poor ventilation can intensify infestations. Recognizing the signs, including sighting one or more centipedes, discovering shed exoskeletons, or noticing tiny bite marks on fabric, helps confirm their presence and guide immediate action. Effective elimination of house centipedes requires a multifaceted approach that combines environmental modification, targeted treatments, and consistent maintenance. Reducing indoor humidity is paramount; using dehumidifiers and improving ventilation disrupts the damp environments they favor. Sealing cracks, gaps around pipes, and entry points around doors and windows prevents new access, limiting reinfestation. Removing clutter and keeping storage areas clean eliminates ideal hiding spots, making the space far less inviting. For immediate control, natural repellents offer a safe and eco-friendly option. Essential oils like peppermint, lavender, or tea tree have been shown to deter centipedes without harming people or pets. A simple spray made from water mixed with a few drops of these oils can be applied along baseboards, window sills, and other access points. Diatomaceous earth, a fine powder derived from fossilized algae, works by damaging the insect’s exoskeleton, leading to dehydration and death—particularly effective when placed in hidden corners and entry zones. When infestations persist or spread, professional pest control services provide targeted solutions. Experts use targeted insecticides that minimize environmental impact while eliminating centipede populations. They also conduct thorough inspections to identify and eliminate hidden nests, ensuring long-term resolution. This professional intervention is especially valuable in larger homes or areas with recurring issues, offering peace of mind and comprehensive management. Beyond immediate elimination, adopting preventive habits sustains a centipede-free environment. Regularly cleaning damp areas, fixing leaky pipes, and maintaining dry storage spaces reduce attractiveness for these pests. Monitoring seasonal changes and adjusting preventive measures accordingly helps avoid future outbreaks. Integrating these practices transforms a home into a less hospitable environment, discouraging centipedes from returning. Looking ahead, advancements in integrated pest management and eco-conscious solutions are shaping the future of centipede control. Innovations in non-toxic repellents, smart humidity monitoring systems, and targeted biological controls promise more sustainable, effective ways to manage these creatures without compromising health or safety. As awareness of indoor ecosystem balance grows, homeowners are empowered with smarter, environmentally responsible strategies to protect their living spaces. In summary, eliminating house centipedes is not just about quick fixes but about understanding their behavior, modifying the home environment, and applying consistent, informed measures. With the right combination of prevention, natural deterrents, and professional support when needed, residents can enjoy a clean, comfortable home free of unwelcome centipede guests.

How to Get Rid of House Centipedes: A Comprehensive Guide

The scuttling shadow that darts across your floor, the unsettling sight of multiple legs disappearing into a crack – for many homeowners, the house centipede (*Scutigera coleoptrata*) is a unwelcome guest. While often more startling than harmful, these multi-legged arthropods can trigger significant anxiety and a desire for immediate eradication. Fortunately, understanding their habits and employing a multi-pronged approach can effectively banish these creepy crawlies from your home.

This detailed, analytical guide will delve into the biology of house centipedes, the reasons they invade our living spaces, and, most importantly, a comprehensive strategy for how to get rid of house centipedes permanently. We'll explore both preventative measures and direct extermination methods, ensuring you can reclaim your home from these fast-moving invaders.

Understanding the House Centipede: Friend or Foe?

Before we discuss removal, it’s crucial to understand what you’re dealing with. House centipedes are not the venomous monsters of horror films. In fact, they are beneficial predators that play a role in controlling other household pests. Their elongated, segmented bodies are adorned with numerous pairs of legs, with the front pair modified into venomous fangs. However, their venom is potent only against their prey, and while they can bite humans, the sensation is typically described as a mild sting, similar to a bee sting, and rarely causes severe reactions.

Their lifecycle involves several molting stages, during which they shed their exoskeleton. They thrive in damp, dark environments and are most active at night. Their diet consists of a variety of common household pests, including silverfish, cockroaches, ants, spiders, and even bedbugs. This predatory nature is the primary reason why some entomologists suggest tolerating a few centipedes as a natural form of pest control.

Why Are House Centipedes in My Home?

The presence of house centipedes is almost always an indicator of a conducive environment. They seek out moisture and a readily available food source. Common attractants include:

1. **Excessive Moisture:** Damp basements, crawl spaces, bathrooms with poor ventilation, leaky pipes, and areas with condensation are prime real estate for centipedes.
2. **Abundant Food Sources:** If you have a thriving population of other insects in your home, centipedes will follow. This includes pests that are also attracted to moisture and food debris.
3. **Entry Points:** Cracks in foundations, gaps around windows and doors, and utility penetrations provide easy access for centipedes to enter your home.
4. **Clutter:** Piles of cardboard boxes, newspapers, and stored items in damp areas create hiding places and breeding grounds for both centipedes and their prey.

The Cornerstone of Centipede Control: Prevention

The most effective way to get rid of house centipedes is to prevent them from entering in the first place. This involves addressing the environmental factors that draw them in. Think of it as removing their welcome mat and their buffet.

Moisture Management: The Ultimate Deterrent

This is arguably the most critical step in any centipede eradication plan. Reducing humidity and eliminating standing water will make your home far less appealing to these arthropods.

1. **Improve Ventilation:** Ensure adequate airflow in bathrooms, kitchens, basements, and crawl spaces. Use exhaust fans regularly, especially during and after showers or cooking. Consider installing dehumidifiers in chronically damp areas.
2. **Fix Leaks:** Promptly repair any leaky faucets, pipes, or roofs. Check for condensation on windows and pipes and address the cause.
3. **Proper Drainage:** Ensure that water drains away from your home's foundation. Clean gutters and downspouts regularly to prevent water from pooling around the house.
4. **Dry Out Wet Areas:** Mop up any standing water immediately. Avoid storing items directly on damp concrete floors in basements or garages.

Sealing Entry Points: Building a Fortress

Once moisture is controlled, the next step is to physically block their access into your home.

1. **Inspect Your Foundation:** Look for cracks and crevices in your home's foundation and seal them with caulk or appropriate repair materials.
2. **Seal Gaps Around Utilities:** Pay attention to where pipes, wires, and cables enter your home. Use caulk or expanding foam to seal any openings.
3. **Weatherstrip Doors and Windows:** Ensure that weatherstripping is intact and providing a good seal around all exterior doors and windows. Check for gaps beneath doors and install door sweeps if necessary.
4. **Install Screens:** Make sure window screens are in good condition and securely fitted to prevent entry.

Declutter and Remove Habitat: Eliminating Hiding Places

Centipedes love to hide in dark, undisturbed areas. Removing clutter will reduce their hiding spots and make your home less inviting.

1. **Basements and Garages:** Organize stored items. Avoid stacking boxes directly on the floor. Store items in sealed plastic containers instead of cardboard.
2. **Crawl Spaces:** Keep crawl spaces clean and free of debris. Ensure proper ventilation in these areas.
3. **Outdoors:** Remove leaf litter, wood piles, and other organic debris from the immediate vicinity of your home. These can attract both centipedes and their prey.

Direct Methods: How to Get Rid of House Centipedes When They're Already Inside

While prevention is key, sometimes you'll find yourself with a centipede problem that requires more direct intervention. Here's how to tackle them:

Physical Removal and Trapping

For the immediate and less invasive approach, physical removal is your first line of defense.

1. **The Vacuum Cleaner:** A swift and efficient way to deal with a visible centipede. Be sure to empty the vacuum bag or canister outdoors immediately after use.
2. **Sticky Traps:** Place sticky traps in areas where you've seen centipedes, such as along baseboards, in corners, and near entry points. These will capture centipedes and other crawling insects. Check and replace traps regularly.
3. **DIY Traps:** While less effective, you can create simple traps by placing a jar on its side with a small piece of bait (like a dead insect) inside. Centipedes can crawl in but may have difficulty crawling out.

Chemical Control: Use with Caution

Chemical treatments can be effective but should be used judiciously, especially in homes with children and pets. Always follow product instructions carefully and prioritize safety.

1. **Insecticides:** Look for insecticides specifically labeled for use against centipedes and other crawling insects. These are often available as sprays or dusts. Apply them to entry points, cracks, crevices, and areas where you've observed centipede activity. Focus on perimeter treatments around your home's foundation.
2. **Diatomaceous Earth (Food Grade):** This natural powder is made from fossilized aquatic organisms. It works by abrading the exoskeleton of insects, causing them to dehydrate and die. Sprinkle a thin layer of food-grade diatomaceous earth in dry areas where centipedes travel, such as behind appliances, in wall

voids, and in crawl spaces. It is non-toxic to humans and pets when food grade.
3. **Boric Acid:** Similar to diatomaceous earth, boric acid can be an effective deterrent when applied to dry areas. However, it is more toxic than diatomaceous earth, so use it with extreme caution and keep it away from children and pets.

Natural Repellents: A Gentle Approach

For those who prefer to avoid chemicals, several natural substances are believed to repel centipedes.

1. **Essential Oils:** Scents like peppermint, tea tree oil, and eucalyptus oil are thought to deter centipedes. Mix a few drops of your chosen oil with water in a spray bottle and mist around entry points and known centipede pathways. Reapply regularly as the scent dissipates.
2. **Cayenne Pepper:** The spicy nature of cayenne pepper is said to be a deterrent. Sprinkle a small amount around entry points. Be cautious as it can be an irritant.
3. **Bay Leaves:** Some anecdotal evidence suggests that placing bay leaves in cabinets, pantries, and other areas where centipedes are seen can deter them.

When to Call a Professional Pest Control Service

While most house centipede infestations can be managed with DIY methods, there are instances where professional intervention is necessary:

1. **Severe Infestations:** If you are seeing a large number of centipedes despite your best efforts, a professional exterminator can identify the root cause and implement a more aggressive treatment plan.
2. **Persistent Problems:** If the problem continues despite consistent prevention and treatment, there might be underlying structural issues or a larger pest problem contributing to the centipede presence.
3. **Fear or Phobia:** For individuals with extreme phobias, a professional can handle the eradication quickly and efficiently, providing peace of mind.

A pest control professional will conduct a thorough inspection to identify the source of the infestation and develop a customized treatment strategy. They have access to more potent and targeted pesticides, as well as specialized equipment for application. They can also offer advice on long-term prevention strategies tailored to your specific home and environment.

Conclusion: A Centipede-Free Home is Achievable

Getting rid of house centipedes is a process that requires understanding their needs and implementing a comprehensive strategy. By focusing on moisture control, sealing entry points, and decluttering, you can significantly reduce the likelihood of them invading your home. When they do appear, a combination of physical removal, trapping, and carefully chosen chemical or natural treatments can effectively deal with existing infestations. Remember, a few house centipedes are not necessarily a sign of an unhealthy home; rather, they are often indicators of environmental conditions that can be easily rectified. By taking a proactive and consistent approach, you can achieve a centipede-free living space and enjoy the peace of mind that comes with it.

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Questions & Answers About how to get rid of house centipedes

No	Question	Answer
1	I'm seeing more house centipedes lately, what's the fastest way to get rid of them?	The quickest way to get rid of existing house centipedes is through direct removal (vacuuming or catching them) and by using targeted insecticides or natural deterrents like essential oils around entry points. However, long-term success requires addressing their food sources (other insects) and sealing up cracks and crevices.

2	Are house centipedes dangerous? How can I make my home less inviting to them?	While their bite can be painful and cause minor swelling, house centipedes are not dangerous to humans or pets. To make your home less inviting, reduce moisture by fixing leaks, using dehumidifiers, and improving ventilation. Also, eliminate their food sources like spiders, cockroaches, and silverfish by maintaining good sanitation and considering pest control for those issues.
3	What are the best natural remedies to repel house centipedes?	Effective natural repellents include essential oils like peppermint, tea tree, eucalyptus, and lavender. Mix these with water and spray around windows, doors, and potential entry points. Diatomaceous earth (food-grade) can also be sprinkled in cracks and crevices to dehydrate them.
4	I've tried everything, why do I still have house centipedes? What am I missing?	You might be missing a key factor: moisture. Centipedes thrive in damp environments. Thoroughly check for and address any damp areas in basements, bathrooms, kitchens, and crawl spaces. Sealing entry points like cracks in walls and foundations is also crucial. Ensure there are no water leaks and that proper ventilation is in place.
5	When is it time to call a professional pest control service for house centipedes?	If you have a persistent and overwhelming infestation despite your best efforts, or if you're uncomfortable dealing with them yourself, it's time to call a professional. They can identify the root cause of the infestation, implement effective treatments, and advise on preventative measures.

how to eliminate house centipedes fast, natural ways to remove centipedes indoors, prevent and get rid of house centipedes, house centipede control methods, kill centipedes in home naturally, how to repel centipedes in house, centipede removal tips for homes, eliminate centipedes without chemicals, quick fix for house centipedes, how to get rid of centipedes in basements

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