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Over the past couple of weeks I have received a lot of calls about fleas. If any of you have ever had to deal with a flea problem you know how frustrating and expensive it can be. A single adult flea female can lay 400-800 eggs over a 5 month period. If you multiply that number by the number of adult females then you have a ton of fleas hatching out over a 5 month period.

The best way to avoid a flea problem is to stop it before it starts. Controlling fleas on pets is the best way to do this. You can contact any local vet and get appropriate materials that will keep your animals free of fleas as well as ticks and mosquitoes. But, what if you don't have any pets and still have a flea problem?

If you don't have pets and are still faced with a flea problem there are several products that you can use. Products containing carbaryl (Sevin), permethrin and cyfluthrin will all control adult fleas. There are a couple of problems with these products: It is hard to get the product in all the areas where fleas hide and they don't kill eggs or larvae. These products are easy to find in retail stores. Applications made at 10-14 day intervals should help control flea problems.

There are a few products out there that contain growth regulator such as Pyriproxyfen, and Methoprene, that target the eggs and larvae. These products prevent the eggs from hatching and the larval fleas from pupating into mating adults. Some of these products are Bengal Full Season Flea Killer Plus, Hartz Control Pet Care System, Real-Kill Indoor Flea Fogger, and Zep Flea Pro. These products may not be as easy to find, but in severe infestations they will be your best weapons against these tiny pests.

As always follow label directions when using any pesticide and call your local county agent if you have any questions.