

## PESTS SEEK OUT FOOD, WATER, & SHELTER

Improving sanitation practices, building maintenance, and pest control services will help keep your facility free of infestation.

### CONTROL PRACTICES

#### Sanitation Practices should include:

- Regular cleaning of all surfaces with disinfectant
- Make sure that plumbing and grease interceptors are clean
- Utilize drain traps and stoppers in sinks even when they are not in use
- Do not allow trash to pile up in or out of the building
- Keep outside doors closed

#### Building Maintenance Guidance:

- Regularly walk around your facility to look for entry points
- Doors should be sealed so that no light can be seen when they are closed
- Do not allow water to accumulate on floors or leave sinks filled overnight
- Rodents can enter through an opening the size of a dime; while insects can enter through even smaller openings

#### Using Professional Pest Control:

- Food service establishments must use pesticides labeled as safe for use around food. The best way to keep employees and customers safe is to hire a certified pest control operator.
- Work with your pest control provider to ensure regular visits to treat and check for pest entry points.
- Retain pest control plans and treatment records for review during regular health inspections.
- Contact your inspector for additional guidance and assistance with pest management.

### COMMON PESTS

#### Cockroaches:

- Pest species may carry bacteria, viruses, and allergens. Bacteria can be transferred to food contact surfaces. Look for dead cockroaches and their droppings in cracks and crevices where they like to hide. As weather cools, cockroaches seek warmth indoors.

#### Flies:

- Filth flies (including the common house fly) can harbor bacteria that can transfer to food and food contact surfaces. Keep doors closed and window screens in tact. Ensure trash materials do not accumulate.
- For open air food stands, keep food covered as much as possible.

#### Rodents:

- Rodents eat stored food directly and/or contaminate foods with their feces and urine. Ensure that food is stored six inches off of the floor and keep dried items in plastic bins if possible. Exterior entry points should be stuffed with steel wool and then sealed. Ensure bait stations are installed where contamination with food is not possible. As weather cools, rodents seek warmth indoors.
- If a building has been vacant and rodent droppings have accumulated; be sure to follow CDC guidance for cleanup.  
[How to Clean Up After Rodents | Healthy Pets. Healthy People | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/rodent-control/clean-up.html)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/rodent-control/clean-up.html>