

CHAPTER 7

PEST CONTROL

Pests and insects carry and spread microorganisms that can contaminate food and food contact surfaces resulting in the transmission of diseases. Pest control must be a top priority for all employees to help maintain a sanitary food service facility.

Common insects and pests, which are attracted to food service establishments, include:

- Rodents - rats, mice, squirrels
- Insects - flies, cockroaches, weevils, silverfish, wasps, ants
- Birds - seagulls, crows, pigeons, sparrows

INSPECTING FOR PESTS

Routine self-inspections for pests are necessary to minimize risk of pest infestation. Food service employees should carefully inspect all food deliveries and report observations of signs of pests. Be sure to look in storage rooms, areas around the receiving area and back door, trash receptacles, and any dark, undisturbed area.

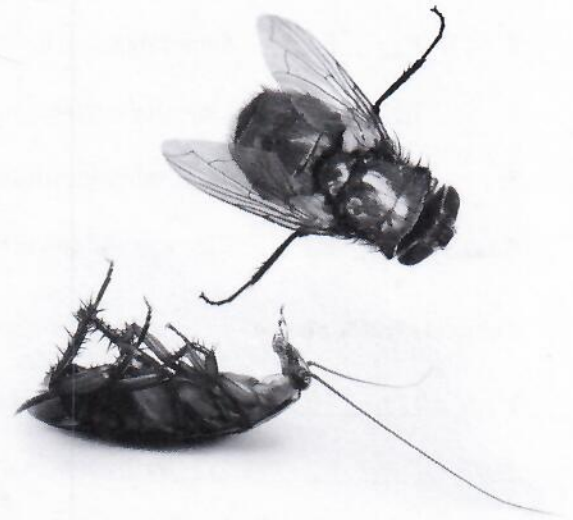
When inspecting the premises, look for these signs:

- Live or dead rodents, insects, eggs or larvae
- Rodent or insect droppings
- Damage to boxes or cases of food; wood, plaster, cardboard
- Gnaw or chew marks directly on food packaging
- Food spills in storage areas
- Unusual odors - associated usually with mice or cockroaches
- Tracks or tail marks in dust or powder (such as flour)
- Black, greasy-looking smears or marks on walls, pipes or counters

PREVENTING PESTS

Pest control can be easily maintained with careful attention to the facility and consistent ongoing sanitation and maintenance practices. No one wants to work or eat in a place infested with pests. The easiest way to combat pests is to prevent them from entering the operation. Following these simple steps can prevent pests from becoming a problem in a food service establishment:

- Carefully inspect all deliveries for pests
- Refuse deliveries containing insects or showing signs of pests
- Dispose of trash properly and frequently
- Keep trash cans and dumpsters areas clean and free of debris
- Be sure all trash gets inside the dumpsters, and keep dumpster doors closed
- Keep screens on windows and vents in good repair
- Be sure exterior doors have self-closing devices, door-sweeps, and tightly seal
- Never prop exterior doors open
- Cover all holes and openings around pipes, or other exterior accesses that can invite pests in
- Cover exterior and roof ventilation pipes and ducts with approved screens
- Seal wall and floor cracks

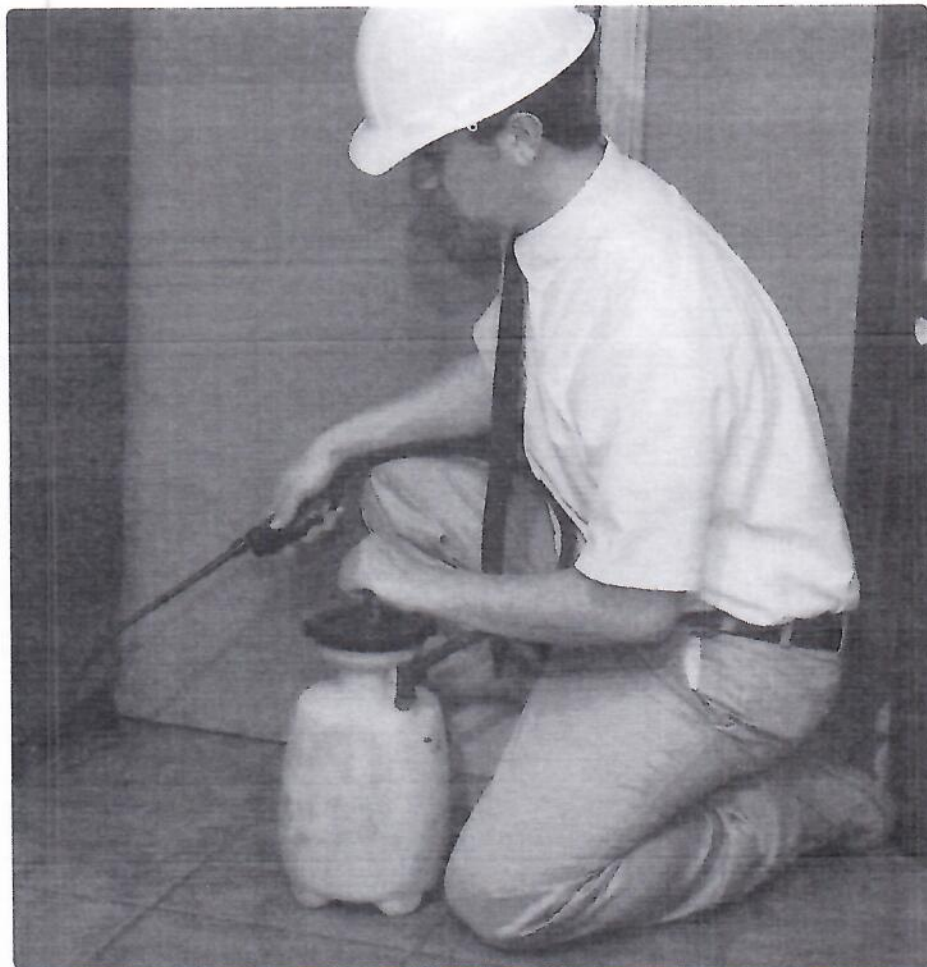


- Use a professional pest control service
- Be sure restrooms are clean and pest free, and enclosed to minimize pests
- Frequent sanitation and housekeeping should be performed during every shift

BEST EMPLOYEE PRACTICE

Pest Control

If you observe any uncovered openings to the outside of the food establishment, be certain to notify your manager and supervisor. The best way to control pests is to keep them out. Immediately notify a manager or supervisor if any risk factors or signs of pests are observed.



CHAPTER SEVEN REVIEW QUIZ

True or False

1. T____ F____ Pests carry microorganisms that can contaminate food and food contact surfaces.
2. T____ F____ Pest control is only the manager's responsibility.
3. T____ F____ Pest control includes tight sealing, self-closing exterior doors.
4. T____ F____ Rodents, insects and birds are considered pests.

Complete the Sentence

1. Regular self _____ of the establishment are necessary to look for signs of pests.
2. Carefully inspect all food deliveries for _____ of pests.
3. If you see damage to food packaging, gnaw marks and rodent or insect droppings, your establishment may have a _____ infestation.
4. It is very important to remove _____ from the establishment so as not to feed pests.

Multiple Choice

1. When self-inspecting for pests, a sign that pests are present is:
 - a. the season is spring or summer.
 - b. the back door does not tightly seal.
 - c. black, greasy-looking marks on walls, pipes or counters.
 - d. the dumpster has not been emptied.
2. Pests can contaminate food and food surfaces by spreading:
 - a. fur.
 - b. microorganisms.
 - c. amoebas.
 - d. arthropods.
3. If an employee observes signs of pests, he or she should:
 - a. tell a friend.
 - b. tell a coworker.
 - c. tell a manager.
 - d. be quiet and keep working.
4. Pests can be easily controlled with careful and consistent attention to _____ and maintenance.
 - a. sanitation
 - b. temperature control
 - c. time management
 - d. none of the above