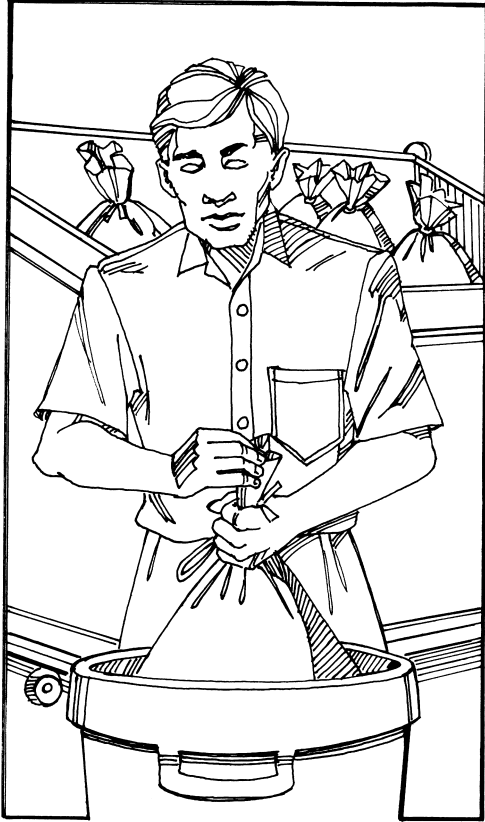


What You Need to Know About Pest Control



Pests commonly found in food service areas carry disease and bring filth into the food service environment. Fortunately there are many ways to prevent pests from popping up.

- **Make sure doors close tightly; repair weatherstripping if necessary**
- **Make sure openings and cracks in walls and floors are filled with putty, caulk or a similar product, especially around pipes.**
- **Make sure screens are on all windows, doors and vents.**
- **Avoid leaving empty, dirty food containers sitting out or in the sink.**
- **Roaches and ants are attracted to sweet foods and smells. Seal or tightly close sweet-smelling foods.**
- **Clean and sanitize storerooms and work areas thoroughly.**
- **Store food off the floor and rotate products.**
- **Clean up spills and wipe or sweep up crumbs immediately.**
- **Seal and dispose of garbage promptly.**
- **Remove and destroy infested food.**
- **Keep storage areas at proper temperatures.**
- **Repair any water leaks.**
- **Remove clutter and stacks of paper.**
- **Keep dumpsters as far from doors and windows as possible; keep dumpster area clean.**

Pesticides and Poisons

Pests are persistent, so you may need extra help to eliminate them out. When using pesticides or poisons, especially around food service areas, make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully and that the health department approves the types you use. It is best to enlist the help of a professional pest control service.

Common Pests

Roaches:

- ◆ live and breed in damp places, behind boxes, in holes and in folds of bags and paper.
- ◆ like dark, warm, moist and hard-to-clean places.
- ◆ have hairy legs that carry disease-causing organisms.
- ◆ can produce millions of offspring in a lifetime.
- ◆ normally search for food at night.
- ◆ can create a strong oily odor.
- ◆ leave feces that look like large grains of pepper.
- ◆ leave brown, dark red or black capsule-shaped egg cases.

Rodents:

- ◆ leave droppings that can contain several million bacteria.
- ◆ produce as many as 50 offspring in a life span of one year.
- ◆ hide during the day.
- ◆ leave signs such as gnawing, tracks on dusty surfaces, nesting materials, holes and feces.

Flies:

- ◆ feed on garbage and human and animal waste.
- ◆ can transport a wide range of foodborne illnesses.
- ◆ can enter a building through holes the size of a pinhead.
- ◆ can contaminate food with their mouth, feet, hair or feces.
- ◆ can produce thousands of offspring in one breeding season.
- ◆ are attracted to places protected from the wind, and edges such as garbage can rims.
- ◆ lay eggs in warm, decaying material protected from sunlight.
- ◆ can mature to adulthood in six days in warm summer weather.