FOOD SAFETY ESSENTIAL

"PEST CONTROL"

See FOOD CODE 6.501.111

Pests of Greatest Concern in Food Establishments

COCKROACHES | **RODENTS** | **FLIES**

Although all pests are undesirable, cockroaches, rodents, and flies are the pests of greatest concern. Pests carry and spread pathogens by scurrying across surfaces and food, contaminating them with urine and feces. Diseases carried by pests include Salmonella (which can result in Typhoid), Listeria, E. coli, Polio, Dysentery, and many more.

What Pests Need for Survival - Deny Them These 3



FOOD



WATER



HARBORAGE

Just like humans, pests need food, water, and a place to live (harborage) in order to survive. If your food establishment doesn't have these accessible to pests, they are unlikely to be present in your facility. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) works to eliminate these sources.

Techniques to Prevent Pest Activity



FOOD STORAGE

- Protect food by storing it in food-safe containers and sealing it properly. Example: empty bulk bags into bins instead of leaving loosely in bag.
- Store all food at least 6 inches off the floor.



GENERAL CLEANLINESS

- Clean up food debris on shelving, equipment and on the floor.
- Do not allow puddles or standing water - squeegee it down the drain.
- Wash dishes and equipment soon after they are dirtied.
- Take out the trash regularly and cover bins when not in use.



FACILITY CONDITIONS

- Repair leaks and cracks in a timely manner.
- Weatherstrip entry doors and ensure no light is visible around the perimeter to avoid pest entry.
- Provide screens on windows and doors if used for ventilation.

How to Identify Evidence of Pest Activity

- Droppings, chew marks, and debris are indicators of pest activity.
- Cockroach droppings look like dark smudges with dark dots.
- Rodent droppings are brown, the size and shape of rice grains.
- Shredded debris, particularly paper, suggests rodent activity as they use this for bedding.
- Chew marks may appear on woodwork, walls, and food containers.

If you find evidence of pest activity, immediately contact your pest control operator!



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