

PEST CONTROL PLAN CHECKLIST

The presence of pests in a food establishment can create an unhealthy work environment and is a major cause of foodborne illness, which can result in administrative action and the requirement for a re-inspection of the food establishment. A stop use of equipment or a stop sale of food items can be a financial burden, but is necessary to ensure the safety of foods offered to the public. The following recommendations are offered to assist in the eradication and prevention of pests.

- ☐ **Retain the services of a licensed pest control company or individual.** *Many food establishments hire a pest control company because the establishment lacks the personnel and expertise to run such a program. A pest control contractor should be reputable and have proper training and experience. A reputable pest control contractor will provide records and reports to the food establishment verifying that the program is effective and operating successfully. The verification records should include evidence of contractor training and certifications to apply pesticides in a food establishment, and documentation that the pesticides are approved for such use.*

If an outside pest control company is hired to conduct the pest control program, the food establishment should still take an active effort to help maintain the program to eliminate the presence of pests. The following recommendations are offered to assist the food establishment to help develop and maintain an effective pest control program.

- ☐ **Tightly seal all interior and exterior entry points including but not limited to exterior doors that are not tight fitting, holes/openings into walls & ceilings, etc.** *Pest can get access to the establishment through very small openings. Once openings are sealed, additional inspections should be conducted on a routine basis to help locate and eliminate entry points.*
- ☐ **Trim/remove tall vegetation in close proximity to building to help prevent pest harborage.** *Tall trees touching the building can be used as a ladder for pest to gain roof access and may also create an opportunity for nesting.*
- ☐ **Remove any unnecessary equipment, debris or clutter around interior or exterior of building to help prevent pest harborage.** *Eliminating places for pests to hide is an important part of an effective pest management program. Areas with idle equipment and excessive back stock should be routinely cleaned and inspected. Excess equipment should be removed if not necessary for operations. Consistent disruption of harborage areas will help eliminate shelter for pests.*
- ☐ **Develop a routine pest monitoring program to help identify and treat problem areas.** *Routine pest monitoring by employee personnel can assist in the pest control program with little to no expense to the establishment. If pests are found, immediately contacting the pest control company and providing documentation could help eliminate the opportunity for infestation.*
- ☐ **Thoroughly clean and sanitize all areas of visible pest activity.** *Cleaning and sanitizing all areas of pest activity aids in lowering the chance of the pests returning to the area. A regular sanitation program of the entire establishment should also be implemented that includes pre-operational cleaning and post-operational cleaning.*
- ☐ **Inspect incoming shipments of food and supplies for evidence of pests.** *Evidence of pests includes rodent and roach droppings, roach egg casings, gnawed products from rodents and chewed packaging. Live roaches and rodents may be observed by simply moving contents within the box or shipping container. Remove cardboard container as soon as possible.*
- ☐ **Pests need food and water.** *Controlling water leaks at faucets, spigots, dishwashing areas, and around cooking equipment can aide in controlling pests. Reducing the availability of food by mopping, cleaning and sanitizing as well as reducing the availability of food through good storage practices will aide in the control of pests. Secure waste containers to eliminate a source of food and store waste containers away from entrances.*
- ☐ **Routine pest monitoring by employee personnel can assist in the pest control program with little to no expense to the establishment.** *If pests are found, immediately contacting the pest control company and providing documentation could help eliminate the opportunity for infestation.*

Together, these programs will assist in a successful pest control program.

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