



# FALL AND WINTER PESTS



**Information about the pests that could pose the greatest threat to your restaurant in fall and winter.**

Reference the key on page 3 for more information about prevention tips.



## OCCASIONAL INVADERS

*Field crickets, earwigs and ground beetles*

### WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

Occasional invaders are pests that can come inside from time to time in search of food or shelter. They typically don't pose any serious health or structural threats, but these pests often travel in large numbers and can pose a major nuisance to you and your patrons.

### WHERE TO LOOK

- Inspect dark or moist areas, both outside and inside, especially close to any openings like doors, windows and utility penetration points.
- Look around doors and window frames.

- Occasional invaders are often found around and underneath potted plants, especially those placed at front entrances.
- They prefer areas where there is water, such as kitchens, bathrooms and laundries.

### PREVENTION TIPS



## COCKROACHES

*German, American, Asian*

### WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

Cockroaches are a major health concern. They can spread disease, contaminate food, trigger allergies and even cause asthma. They can enter buildings through cracks, crevices, vents, sewers and drain pipes. Cockroaches reproduce rapidly and are difficult to control.

### WHERE TO LOOK

- Cockroaches are nocturnal insects. One seen during the day is a possible sign of infestation.
- They prefer dark, moist places to hide and breed, including behind refrigerators, sinks and stoves, under floor drains and inside motors and major appliances.

- Because they can flatten their bodies to fit into narrow areas, cockroaches may be found hiding beneath rubber mats, behind wallpaper and within wall cracks.

### TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT

- Inspect incoming supplies, especially any corrugated boxes.
- Periodically inspect and clean employee lockers.

### PREVENTION TIPS





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# RODENTS

*House mice, roof rats, Norway rats*

## WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

Rodents are known carriers of deadly diseases and can prove extremely destructive. And what's worse, they don't need a large opening to get inside: rats can squeeze through an opening as small as a quarter, while a mouse can fit into a hole smaller than a dime. Just one rodent sighting in your restaurant can turn a customer away for good.

## WHERE TO LOOK

- Signs of rodent activity may include droppings, rub marks or burrows.
- Rodents tend to gather where food and water are readily available, such as in kitchens, foodservice areas and even employee breakrooms.

## TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT

- As the fall season approaches, external rodent populations will be seeking shelter indoors. Ensure there are no openings for rodents to get in.

## PREVENTION TIPS



# SMALL FLIES

## WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

Fruit flies, drain flies and phorid flies can contaminate food, cause health inspection violations and irritate or disgust customers. They also reproduce rapidly, so a population explosion can occur if the issue is not managed properly.

## WHERE TO LOOK

- Fruit flies can be found near fermented materials in trash cans and floor drains.
- Drain flies commonly breed in raw sewage under slabs where undetected broken pipes may be located.
- Phorid flies thrive off the moisture found in the bottom of trash receptacles, under kitchen equipment, in drains that are backed up and in dirty mop heads.

## TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT

- All breeding sites must be identified. Inspect the bar, servers' side stations, mop drain, floor drains, dish area, dry stock room, and inside trash cans and trash carts for decaying organic matter. Also check for condensation behind and underneath ice machines.
- Thoroughly clean and dry out any areas with decaying matter to help prevent problems with small flies.

## PREVENTION TIPS





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# PREVENTION TIPS KEY



### Exclusion

- Install door sweeps, weather stripping and window screens.
- Seal cracks and crevices inside and outside your restaurant.
- Seal entry points around utility penetrations.
- Install air curtains for an added flying pest barrier.



### Sanitation

- Follow a strict daily sanitation regime.
- Thoroughly clean, dust, sweep and mop on a regular basis.
- Remove any clutter, like cardboard boxes, that offers shelter for pests.
- Remove all food and water spills immediately.
- Store all food and garbage properly in sealed containers.
- Repair leaking faucets, water pipes and HVAC units.
- Get rid of standing water in the parking lot, near building foundation and on the roof. Keep gutters and downspouts clean.



### Landscaping

- Move/trim plants away from restaurant's foundation so they don't touch the building.
- Remove excessive plant cover and wood mulch. Trim overgrown branches, plants and bushes.
- Install a 30-inch gravel strip around the perimeter of the facility to obstruct crawling pests.



### Ongoing Inspections

- Inspect your restaurant's exterior and interior for signs of a pest infestation or potential points of entry. Report any findings to your pest management professional.

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