



Integrated Pest Management Best Practices For **FOOD PROCESSING FACILITIES**

Proper pest control is imperative to the success and safety of any food processing facility, as disease-carrying pests like rodents, cockroaches and flies can easily infiltrate and contaminate products made in these facilities.

Effective pest control in food processing facilities requires a partnership between a licensed pest control company and a facility manager, who together can implement an integrated pest management (IPM) plan. This method of pest control focuses on three basic techniques: inspecting for pests, identifying pests and treatment by pest control professionals. IPM plans are most effective when managers take proactive steps to prevent infestations in their facilities.

To help keep pests out of your food processing facility, Rose Pest Solutions recommends the following tips:

INTERIOR

- Ensure employee kitchens and break rooms are clean by wiping down counter tops and sweeping floors to remove crumbs and residue from spills
- Vacuum and clean all areas regularly, including offices, hallways, lobbies and public bathrooms
- Routinely check under sinks and machinery for areas of moisture and repair any leaky pipes or clogged drains
- Store all food products in sealed containers and organize empty boxes to prevent harborage areas
- Schedule regular inspections with a qualified pest control company that is experienced in working with food processing facilities to help identify vulnerabilities, survey for, and control issues using an IPM approach

EXTERIOR

- Keep trash in sealed containers inside the building and remove from the facility regularly. Ensure dumpsters are far away from any building entry points
- Inspect the exterior of the building to ensure there are no entry points, paying close attention to areas where pipes and utilities enter the building, and seal any gaps or cracks in the foundation
- Install door sweeps on exterior doors to seal the gap between the floor and the door where pests can enter
- Remove debris from gutters and direct water away from the building through properly functioning downspouts, gutters and splash blocks
- Install a gravel perimeter around the building to help discourage vegetation growth that could harbor pests
- Ensure the grounds surrounding the facility are properly maintained, as overgrown vegetation can attract pests to the property