

# Pest Control Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Assessment
  - Is there evidence of damage and debris caused by insects?
  - Are the doors or other openings to the outside tight fitting?
  - Are there gaps around windows and/ or doors?
  - Are there water sources near the building?
  - Is there waste disposal near the building?
  - Is there vegetation or mulch placed against or near the building?
  - Is there nonessential lighting near the building?
  - Is there evidence of damage and debris caused by insects within the building?
  - Are there cracks or holes in or around the walls, doors or windows?
  - Is there food waste in undesignated areas?
  - Do all food containers have lids?
  - Are there moisture leaks or condensation around plumbing, windows, or climate control equipment?
  - Are garbage containers clean and properly covered?
- Do's (Rodents)
  - Sweep up all food debris in the food preparation and storage areas.
  - Ensure all food such as flour, sugar and legumes are covered and stored in sealed containers.
  - Seal gaps and holes in walls, floors, ceilings and around pipes and cables.
  - Remove accumulated boxes or redundant equipment.
  - Seal the gap under external doors.
  - Cover and seal rubbish bins tightly.
  - Purchase and use only poisons and chemicals approved for use in food establishments.
  - Lay baits such as pellets or blocks, or traps where droppings are sited and check them regularly.
  - Carry out a monthly check of the food premises to check for any signs of rodent activity.
- Signs of Infestation (Rodents)

- Rodent droppings on the floor and other surfaces especially where food is stored.
- Greasy rub marks on vertical surfaces.
- Squeaking, gnawing or movement sounds in walls, cupboards, ceilings.
- Nests made from rags, paper, cardboard, straw and other materials.
- Gnawing damage to materials including wood, soft metals, soap, cables, conduits and food containers.
- Do's (Cockroach)
  - Before treating any area take a flashlight and check for nesting sites.
  - Vacuum regularly.
  - Seal any holes, cracks or crevices to eliminate hiding places for the cockroaches.
  - Reduce potential harbourage by removing clutter.
  - Thoroughly clean and disinfect all equipment and surfaces.
  - Clean away any dead cockroaches.
  - Baits should be placed around the premises where cockroach activity or droppings are found.
  - Replace the baits as required.
  - If necessary, employ a pest control operator to inspect and treat the premises.
  - Carry out a monthly check of the food premises to check for any signs of cockroach activity.
- Signs of Infestation (Cockroach)
  - Smell.
  - Small spindle shaped droppings.
  - Dead cockroach bodies.