Rodent Management Checklist for Restaurants

Restaurants are busy, but no restaurant can afford to ease up on rodent prevention measures. A rodent infestation can contaminate food and surfaces, impact employee morale, lead to customer loss, and result in health department closure and negative media coverage. They can also be costly to eliminate. This checklist can help you keep your restaurant rodent-proof with a complete list of daily, weekly, monthly, and periodic tasks.

Daily Tasks

☐ Ensure doors are closed when not in use.

☐ Sweep up crumbs and clean up spills under fixed equipment or equipment not moved frequently.

☐ Do not leave food out overnight. Put all food away in secure containers.

☐ Check that floor drain covers are in place and secure.

☐ Report and repair any leaks immediately to reduce available liquid sources.

☐ Keep an eye out for signs of rodent activity, such as droppings or gnawed boxes, wiring, or food. Report any suspected activity.

☐ Place all trash in bags before moving it to a dumpster.

☐ Close dumpster lids when not in use.

Weekly Tasks

☐ Inspect walk-in cooler floor for debris; clean up debris immediately.

☐ Inspect storage areas to ensure that items are stored properly and nothing is on the floor.

☐ Inspect walls and floors behind make tables, slicers, and other equipment that is not frequently moved.

> A rat's teeth are incredibly strong. The enamel is hard, measuring 5.5 on Mohs hardness scale — that's harder than iron!

Monthly Tasks

- ☐ Have pest control service performed at a minimum of monthly.

- ☐ Perform a quick inspection of food storage areas and shelving for signs of rodent activity (gnawing, droppings).

- ☐ Inspect all cupboards, closets, or other non-food storage areas for signs of rodent activity (gnawing, droppings).

- ☐ Have hood inspection company steam clean to remove grease and residue on the walls, equipment, and floor areas.

- ☐ Perform an inspection and clean out of all booths; take booth apart to inspect and clean hollow areas.

- ☐ Perform a clean out and inspection of all employee belonging storage areas (lockers, cubbies, etc.). Your pest control provider may be able to help with inspection.

- ☐ Inspect drop ceiling areas in front and back of house for evidence of rodent activity.

- ☐ Check all exterior doors for door sweeps. Install on doors with missing sweeps; replace damaged or worn sweeps that show gaps.

- ☐ Clean dumpster area or trash enclosure to ensure that it is free of harborage and nesting material.

- ☐ Inspect for holes in block walls of dumpster enclosures.

- ☐ Check that any rodent bait stations in dumpster area or trash enclosure are intact and not damaged. These can often be damaged by trash trucks.

- ☐ Perform an inspection of exterior grounds to look for rodent burrows or unusual holes in the ground. Report these to your manager or your pest control provider.

Semi-annual Tasks

- ☐ Perform a rooftop inspection. Look for holes, gaps, or other structural damage along the roofline and on the rooftop that could allow rodent entry. Report any standing water on the rooftop to management.

- ☐ Trim back any tree branches or other vegetation that overhangs the rooftop or is within 6 feet of any wall.

- ☐ Check that any chimneys or vents are properly capped or screened to prevent rodent entry.

- ☐ Inspect the building exterior for gaps, cracks, or other openings that could allow for rodent entry. Seal these openings with rodent-proof materials, such as ¼-inch hardware cloth. Do not use foam sealants, as rodents can easily chew through these.

Annual Tasks

- ☐ Have dumpster replaced or cleaned at least annually.

- ☐ Review your existing pest control contract to ensure that it meets your current needs; speak with your pest control provider about coverage in areas where rodent activity has occurred in the last year.

In addition to food, mice will look for nesting materials — that means that paper, cardboard, or other materials could become a target for these pests.

Your Bain Pest Specialist can often provide minor repair and proofing services for an additional charge. Ask your Specialist for more information.