



Rodent management checklist for foodservice operations

Rodent activity can have a significant impact on foodservice operations. In addition to posing serious health risks by contaminating food and every surface they touch, rodents can cause costly damage by gnawing through wiring, products, and more. Their presence can result in food safety violations, health department closures, loss of customer trust, and negative media attention.

Help protect your establishment from rodents. **Get started today with our helpful checklist.**

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 water sources.
- Keep an eye out for signs of rodent activity, such as droppings or gnawed boxes, wiring, or food. Report any suspected activity right away.
- Place all trash in bags before moving it to a dumpster.
- Close dumpster lids when not in use.

- Empty all garbage cans at the end of the day
- Check and clean break areas of food and debris.
- Ensure all areas and pest control devices are accessible to your pest management provider.

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, or other equipment that is not frequently moved for signs of rodent activity such as droppings, structural holes, gnawing, or grease marks.

RTK100662 REV 01.2025

Monthly Tasks

- Have pest management service performed at least monthly.
- Perform an inspection of food storage areas and shelving for signs of rodent activity.
- 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/clean out of all booths; take booth apart to inspect and clean hollow areas.
- Perform an inspection/clean out of employee locker or cubby areas. Your pest control provider may be able to help with inspection.
- Inspect drop ceiling 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 the 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 the 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

- Inspect the roof for 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 building exterior for gaps, cracks, or other openings that could allow for rodent entry. Seal these openings with rodent-proof materials, such as Rentokil's Flexi Armour products. Do not use foam sealants – rodents can chew through these.

Annual Tasks

- Have dumpster replaced or cleaned at least annually.
- Review your existing pest management contract to ensure it meets your current needs. Add coverage in new areas or places where rodent activity has occurred in the last year.
- Review approved material lists with your pest control provider.



Rentokil offers Rodent and Wildlife Exclusion Services featuring the exclusive Flexi Armour™ product range, designed to seal potential pest entry points and resist determined pests.

Ask your technician for more information.