



# Sparrows: Prevention Tips

Common in North America, house sparrows thrive in shared spaces with humans. These birds can become a problem when they nest in facilities, creating noise, and leaving behind droppings and feathers that can harbor dangerous bacteria. Maintain a bird-free business with these helpful tips.

## Where you might see them

- House sparrows are extremely common in North America and prefer to live among humans.
- You may see them in areas where they can easily scavenge for food.
- These birds will frequent loading docks and trash compactor areas while foraging for food.
- Shrubbery is a favorite area for house sparrows to loaf and roost.
- House sparrows will build their nests in buildings, signs, and other ornamental man-made structures that offer some protection.
- House sparrows may take advantage of roosting, loafing, or nesting in architectural gaps, particularly in high areas or near beam/roof joints.

## Tips for prevention

- Keep loading dock, garage, and bay doors closed when not in use.
- Do not place outdoor shelving or displays near doors. This could attract sparrows to your facility.
- House sparrows will feed on and make nesting materials of discarded items. Keep areas around loading docks and garbage canisters clean.
- To deter nesting under overhangs, have ¾-inch netting installed.
- Keep foliage open form and as far away from doors as possible.
- Conduct a thorough review of your building exterior and seal small holes. House sparrows only need a 1-inch space to nest.
- Inspect the exterior of buildings weekly for signs of sparrow nesting. Nesting season varies depending on geography.



## ID and biology

- Adult house sparrows are approximately 6½ inches in length.
- Males and females have different coloring: males have a brown back with black streaking, a gray crown, a white cheek, and a black bib; females have a grayish-brown crown, pale buff plumage, and an unmarked throat and breast.
- Sparrows can have as many as four successful clutches per season. Average clutch size is 5 eggs.
- Approximately 20% of house sparrows survive their first year; adult survival rate is 57%.
- Nesting season runs from April to October. In more temperate climates, house sparrows can nest year-round.

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