

# Rentokil Steritech

The Experts in Pest Control

## Tips for the management of house sparrows

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, leaving droppings, and shedding feathers that can harbor dangerous bacteria.

### Where you might see them

- House sparrows are extremely common in North America and prefer to live among humans.
- You may often see them hopping on the ground in populated areas where they can easily scavenge for food such as seeds and grains.
- 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, preferably those that offer some protection. Look for them in rafters, eaves, overhangs, holes in building walls, inside signs and lettering on buildings, etc.
- Inside large, open buildings, such as warehouses or club stores, house sparrows may take advantage of roosting, loafing, or nesting in architectural gaps, particularly in high areas or near beam/roof joins.

### Tips for management

- Keep doors closed when not in use, including loading dock, garage, and bay doors.
- Do not place outdoor shelving or displays near doors. This could attract sparrows to your facility.
- House sparrows will often feed on and make nesting materials of items humans discard, so keep the ground around loading docks and garbage areas clean.
- If your facility has overhangs, consider netting these areas with ¾-inch netting to keep sparrows from taking up residence.
- Keep foliage open form and as far away from doors as possible.
- Conduct a thorough review of your building exterior and seal small holes that could be used as nesting sites. House sparrows only need a 1-inch space to nest.
- During nesting season, inspect the exterior of buildings weekly for signs of sparrow nesting. Nesting season varies depending on geography. In areas that experience seasonal fluctuations such the Northeast U.S., nesting season runs from April to October. In more temperate climates, house sparrows can nest year-round.



### Identification and biology

- Adult house sparrows are approximately 6 ½ 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, a pale buff supercilium, and an unmarked throat and breast.
- Sparrows can have as many as four successful clutches per season, although some birds may attempt as many as eight. Average clutch size is 5 eggs.
- Approximately 20% of house sparrows survive their first year; adult survival rate is 57%.

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