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Pest Prevention Best Practices for

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE



- Ensure equipment wheels are clean and operational on items such as coolers, fryers, freezers, and food prep tables.** This allows equipment to be easily moved for cleaning underneath and behind, as well as for pest control service. Dirty casters provide food and potential harborage for pests. Using pots and pans, wood, or other “fixes” to prop equipment in place can create harborage for pests.
- Always use flexible gas and water lines for cook line equipment.** This allows equipment to be moved away from the wall for cleaning and service access.
- Be sure that all gas, water, electrical lines are properly sealed where they enter walls to eliminate a pest harborage area.**
- Use a flashlight and inspect cooler/walk-in cooler door seals for wear and tear.** Pests can harbor in damaged seals.
- Install dishwasher splash guards to keep walls from becoming saturated with moisture.** Be sure these are properly sealed to the wall to prevent moisture from accumulating behind them. Wet walls can cause small fly breeding sites to develop and provide the high humidity required for many pests to thrive.
- Always utilize a correctly installed mop and broom holder to hang cleaning tools.** Mops and brooms resting on the ground will not dry properly and can become a breeding source for pests; they can also create safety issues.
- Ensure that all hinges, handles, knobs, and grates are in good condition.** This will allow equipment doors, drawers, and panels to close properly and easily open for inspection and cleaning. Those that do not open and close properly may allow pests to infest equipment.
- Inspect any equipment with water lines for leaks.** This includes dishwashers and steamers. Repair any leaks immediately.
- Be sure that drip pan evaporators are properly working.** Water collection can be a water source for pests and a potential food safety concern.
- Remove unused or non-functioning equipment from the property to prevent pest harborage.**
- For safety reasons, tell your pest control professional of any frayed electrical lines, burned power cords, or exposed wiring.** These can be dangerous when working with some products.