

# PEST CONTROL TIPS FOR The Holiday Season

- Corey Pierre

Ants, spiders, rodents, and all sorts of bugs can hide in storage boxes of holiday decorations. The pests venture out of the storage boxes once in your home. They will obtain a new place in your home similar to the living condition as the storage boxes: dark and undisturbed. These are perfect conditions for a pest to nest.

Other areas pests can live are in pantry foods like flour, cereal, dry pasta, and spices. These pests are called pantry pests (ants, beetles, weevils, etc.).

To keep all these pests out of your home, you will need a powerful pest manage and rodent manage plan enforced in your home during the holiday season. Below are some tips to protect your holiday events and guests from pests. Comply with the tips to optimize your pest manage program and to keep your holiday plans uninterrupted by pests.

- Keep decorations and seasonal items in airtight containers when storing in attics or sheds. Pests or rodents will not be able to get in these containers. Make sure your airtight containers are made of durable materials (non-cardboard) and in a dry area. Also, when you bring them down for the holidays, unpack them outside and inspect all the items for pest infestations.
- Do a thorough inspection of gifts, wreaths, and Christmas trees before you bring them inside. Insects or rats can be living in them.
- All foods including waste food should be stored away in a sealed container. Trash receptacles should be secured by a lid. Clean all areas where food is prepared and consumed. Tables, counter tops, pantries, and cabinets should be free from crumbs or liquid spills.
- All the food you bring in from stores should be examined. Damaged packaging or boxes should not be bought from stores. Expired food items should be thrown out in a trash can with a secure lid.

Following these pest management guidelines will reduce your chance of pest infestations tremendously. A regular bi-monthly service & pest-proof service on your home by a professional pest manage

company can prevent bugs from ever entering your home.

A regular pest control service will treat the inside and the perimeter of your home for bugs. The pesticides will eliminate bugs upon contact. The residue left from the treatment spray will also get rid of the pests! A pest-proof will cover all crevices and cracks that pests use to enter you home.

It will take a constant effort to keep your restaurant clean and sanitary. However, constant cleaning and enforcement of pest and rodent manage techniques can keep pests out and health code violations at bay. Roaches and other types of bugs can infest a restaurant at anytime of the year, but rodents will usually invade homes and commercial properties during colder months. As a restaurant owner, you need to establish a pest manage plan that will keep rodents away. With an successful pest management plan, you won't have to worry about a rodent or bug infestation. Also, your clients will leave satisfied without getting sick from food that has been contaminated by rodents.

## **Here are some tips restaurant owners can enforce to make for a pest-free establishment:**

- Rodent Proof/Exclusion - This is the beginning of your pest control plan. This will prevent rodents from entering your restaurant. First, inspect the interior and exterior walls and roof for any openings (cracks, crevices, holes) the size of a 10c coin. All 10c-sized openings should be stuffed or covered with a durable, flexible material (ex. steel wool). If you are a tenant in a complex, contact the property manager for solutions to rodent

proof your unit.

- All Food Should Be In Close Containers - Food of all types (uncooked, cooked, leftover, trash, etc.) should not be left out or accessible without opening some sort of container (refrigerator, pantry, trash can with secure lid, etc). Foods stored in cardboard boxes should be off the floor.
- All Surfaces Clean - Spray & wipe work areas with disinfectant after each use.
- Reduce the clutter - Organize your supplies & tools so that every item is easily accessible. As items become piled up, they provide a place for bugs or rodents to hide. Also, keep all products off the ground.
- Use Rodent Traps - if you are experiencing a rodent infestation, quickly call a rodent manage specialist. They can strategically place rodent traps to capture all the rodents. You will want to avoid rodent control sprays or poisons in a food establishment since rodents can expose food to toxic chemicals. Also, chemicals may take a few days to kill rodents and they can end up dying in between walls. A rodent control professional is the top option to effectively remove your rat problem.

It isn't uncommon for a restaurant to be closed by the health department due to violating health code rules. Restaurants can avoid citations and the risk of losing the business with a well executed pest control plan. If you suspect rodents in your establishment, call a pest management company quickly to keep the problem from getting worse.

