

# Rodent Prevention & Facility Readiness Checklist



Use this quick self-audit to identify vulnerabilities throughout your facility.

## 1 Exterior Inspection

- No gaps larger than ¼ inch around doors, utility lines or building penetrations
- Door sweeps fit tightly
- Loading dock doors close completely
- Dumpster lids remain closed
- Trash and recycling areas stay clean
- Vegetation is trimmed away from buildings
- Exterior storage is organized and elevated
- No standing water near the facility

## 4 Employee Awareness

- Staff recognize signs of rodents
- Sightings reported immediately
- Proper food handling followed
- Employees know reporting procedures

## 2 Interior Inspection

- Food stored in sealed containers
- Inventory stored off floors and away from walls
- Break rooms cleaned daily
- Floors free of spills and debris
- Storage areas organized
- Unused equipment removed
- Drains and utility rooms inspected regularly
- Check for holes in walls
- Rodent evidence reported immediately

## 5 Monitoring & Documentation

- Monitoring devices inspected regularly
- Pest trends documented
- Corrective actions tracked
- Service reports reviewed
- Recommendations implemented promptly

## 3 Loading Dock & Receiving

- Shipments inspected before entering
- Pallets checked for rodent activity
- Dock seals maintained
- Dock doors not left open
- Storage areas accessible for inspection

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why are rodents still a problem in the summer?

Warm temperatures speed up rodent breeding cycles, and summer storms push them inside looking for dry shelter, food and water — all of which commercial kitchens provide in abundance.

### What makes restaurants and food facilities especially attractive to rodents?

Consistent food sources, water from sinks and condensation, warm mechanical rooms, undisturbed storage areas and frequent deliveries (pallets and cardboard can carry rodents inside without anyone noticing).

### Why is Integrated Pest Management (IPM) better than just baiting or trapping?

IPM focuses on prevention — sealing entry points, sanitation, employee training and ongoing monitoring — rather than only reacting once rodents are already inside.

### What are the earliest warning signs of rodent activity?

Droppings, gnaw marks on packaging or wiring, grease marks along walls, burrows near foundations, scratching sounds, nesting materials, or unexplained product damage.

### What are the most common rodent entry points in commercial properties?

Exclusion details — gaps larger than ¼ inch around doors, utility lines or building penetrations are a frequent entry point, along with loading dock doors left open during deliveries.

### What should I do if I find evidence of rodents?

Report it immediately per internal procedures, and consider scheduling a comprehensive professional assessment to identify the source rather than treating an isolated issue.