



Rodent management checklist for healthcare facilities

Rodent activity can have a negative impact on any business. Besides posing potentially serious health risks by contaminating foods and services, rodents may also cause costly damage if they gnaw or destroy equipment wiring, medical supplies, products, and more.

Help prevent rodent activity in your healthcare facility. **Get started with our helpful checklist.**

Daily Tasks

- Ensure doors are closed when not in use, especially in shipping and receiving areas.
- Sweep up crumbs and clean up drink spills in dietary areas, especially under equipment.
- Do not leave food out overnight. This includes food return carts.
- Check that floor drain covers are in place and secure.
- Report/repair any leaks immediately to reduce available liquid sources.
- Keep an eye out for signs of rodent activity, such as droppings, live or dead rodents, or evidence of rodent damage.
- Place all trash in bags in a sealed dumpster at the end of the day.

Weekly Tasks

- Inspect storage areas to ensure that items are stored properly and nothing is on the floor. Inspect for evidence of rodent activity.
- Inspect walls and floors in dietary and receiving areas for signs of rodent activity such as droppings, structural holes, gnawing, or grease marks.



VECTORS OF DISEASE

Mice and rats have the potential to spread many pathogens responsible for human illnesses such as salmonellosis, hantavirus, and rat bite fever.



Monthly Tasks

- Have pest management service performed at least monthly.
- Inspect all cupboards, closets, or other non-food storage areas for signs of rodent activity including maintenance rooms, electrical rooms, and janitorial closets.
- Perform an inspection of employee locker rooms/ breakrooms.
- Inspect drop ceilings in dietary areas for evidence of rodent activity.
- Check all exterior doors for door sweeps. Install on doors with missing sweeps; replace damaged or worn sweeps that show gaps.
- Clean the dumpster area or trash enclosure to ensure that it is free of harborage and nesting material.
- Inspect for holes in block walls of dumpster enclosures.
- Check that any rodent bait stations in the dumpster area or trash enclosure are intact and not damaged. These can often be damaged by trash trucks.
- Perform an inspection of exterior grounds to look for rodent burrows or unusual holes in the ground. Report these to your manager or your pest control provider.

Semi-annual Tasks

- Inspect the roof areas for gaps, or other structural damage along the roofline and on the rooftop that could allow rodent entry. Report any standing water on the rooftop to management.
- Trim back any tree branches or other vegetation that overhangs the rooftop or is within 6 feet of any wall.
- Check that any chimneys or vents are properly capped or screened to prevent rodent entry.
- Inspect the building exterior for gaps, cracks, or other openings that could allow for rodent entry. Seal these openings with rodent-proof materials. Do not use foam sealants, as rodents can easily chew through these.

Annual Tasks

- Review your current pest control program to ensure it meets the current needs of your facility.



FACT TO CHEW ON

All rodents have four long, rootless incisors that never stop growing, so they grind their teeth and gnaw to wear them down and keep them sharp.



Your Rentokil technician can help you seal potential pest-entry points through our Rodent and Wildlife Exclusion Service. Ask your technician for more information.