



## Rodent management checklist for food retail

Rodent activity can have a negative impact on any business. Besides posing serious health risks by contaminating every surface they come in contact with, rodents can cause costly damage, gnawing through wiring, products, and more. The presence of rodents can also result in audit failure and potentially shut down your business.

Take an active role in rodent control and keep your business rodent-free. **Get started today with our helpful checklist.**

### Daily Tasks

- Ensure doors are closed when not in use.
- Clean up spills and organic debris, as soon as they occur.
- Do not leave food out overnight. Put all food away in secure containers. Do not store food in desks, lockers, or by registers.
- Report and repair any leaks immediately to reduce available water sources.
- Keep an eye out for signs of rodent activity, such as droppings or gnawed boxes wiring, or food. Report any suspected activity.
- Close dumpster lids when not in use.
- Ensure that pest control devices are accessible to pest technicians.
- Allow pest control technicians unrestricted access to all areas, such as electrical rooms and storage closets.

- Empty all garbage cans at the end of the day.
- Check and clean all kitchens and break areas of food and debris.

### Weekly Tasks

- Inspect storage areas to ensure that items are stored properly and nothing is on the floor.
- Inspect walls and floors behind furniture and storage drawers that are not frequently moved for signs of rodent activity such as droppings, structural holes, gnawing, or grease marks.
- Thoroughly clean break room areas.



According to the CDC, worldwide, mice and rats can spread over 35 diseases to humans. Diseases such as salmonellosis, hantavirus, and rat-bite fever may be spread directly through droppings, urine, saliva, and being bitten.

## Monthly Tasks

- 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.
- 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.
- Inspect for holes in block walls of dumpster enclosures, if applicable.
- Clean the dumpster area or trash enclosure to ensure that it is free of harborage and nesting material.
- Check all exterior doors for door sweeps. Install on doors with missing sweeps; replace damaged or worn sweeps that show gaps.
- Perform a clean out and inspection of all employee belonging storage areas if one exists (lockers, cubbies, etc.) Your pest control provider may be able to help with inspection.
- Inspect all cupboards, closets, or other nonfood storage areas for signs of rodent activity (gnawing, droppings, urine).
- Perform a quick inspection of food storage areas and shelving for signs of rodent activity (gnawing, droppings, urine).
- Check that floor drain covers/screens are in place and secure.
- Inspect infrequently used areas for evidence of rodent activity.
- Ensure that vegetation overgrowth isn't present in the immediate vicinity of the building.
- Have pest control service performed at a minimum of monthly.
- Inspect and clean underneath product shelving.
- Inspect and clean behind and underneath refrigeration units.

## Semi-annual Tasks

- Perform a rooftop inspection. Look for holes, gaps, or other structural damage along the roof line and on the rooftop that could allow for 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, such as ¼-inch hardware cloth. Do not use foam sealants, as rodents can easily chew through these.

## Annual Tasks

- Review your existing pest control contract to ensure that it meets your current needs; speak with your pest control provider about coverage in areas where rodent activity has occurred in the last year.
- Have compactors and dumpsters replaced or cleaned at least annually.
- Review rodent device maps with your pest control provider.
- Review approved material lists with your pest control provider.



A rodent's incisor teeth never stop growing. To wear them down, they engage in a behavior called bruxing (rubbing their upper teeth against their lower teeth and vice versa). This creates a sharp, beveled edge, allowing them to easily gnaw through wiring, building materials, and product.



**Your Rentokil Pest Technician can often provide minor repair and rodent proofing services for an additional charge. Ask your Technician for more information.**