



Integrated Pest Management Best Practices For **LODGING FACILITIES**



Proper pest control is imperative to the success of commercial lodging facilities. Pests that frequently invade these facilities like rodents, cockroaches, ants and bed bugs are capable of transmitting disease to employees and guests, infesting personal belongings and contaminating food. While bed bugs can be found everywhere, they are frequently a problem in commercial lodging facilities.

Effective pest control in commercial lodging facilities requires a partnership between a licensed pest control company and a facility manager to implement an integrated pest management (IPM) plan. This method of pest control focuses on three basic techniques: inspecting for pests, identifying pests and treatment by pest control professionals. IPM plans are most effective when managers take proactive steps to prevent infestations in their facilities.

To help keep pests out of your commercial lodging facility, Franklin Pest Solutions recommends the following tips:

INTERIOR

- Vacuum rooms thoroughly, including items that are often overlooked such as drapes, behind pictures and underneath furniture. Don't forget offices, hallways, lobbies and public bathrooms
- Ensure kitchens and eating areas are clean by wiping down counter tops and sweeping floors to remove crumbs and residue from spills
- Routinely check under sinks and machinery for areas of moisture and repair any leaky pipes or clogged drains
- Store all food products in sealed containers and organize empty boxes to prevent harborage areas
- Inspect for evidence of bed bugs during every room service and maintenance staff should remove and check behind headboards and under box springs periodically
- Follow proper laundry handling practices to reduce the risk of spreading bedbugs, including keeping clean and dirty laundry separate and ensuring all carts remain in the hallway during room service
- Avoid used or reconditioned furniture and furnishings, including antiques, when designing the room. If you do bring second-hand furniture into your building, be sure to have all items inspected and disinfested before installation
- If bed bugs are found, take proper precautions when removing furniture from the room such as wrapping the mattress, box spring and furniture in plastic and sealing them to avoid dropping bed bugs or their eggs while transporting items out of the building
- Schedule regular inspections with a qualified pest control company that is experienced in working with commercial lodging facilities to help identify vulnerabilities, survey for, and control issues using an IPM approach.

EXTERIOR

- Keep trash in sealed containers inside the building and remove from the facility regularly. Ensure dumpsters are far away from any building entry points
- Inspect the exterior of the building to ensure there are no entry points. Pay close attention to areas where pipes and utilities enter the building and seal any gaps or cracks in the foundation
- Install door sweeps on exterior doors to seal the gap between the floor and the door where pests can enter
- Remove debris from gutters and direct water away from the building through properly functioning downspouts, gutters and splash blocks
- Install a gravel perimeter around the building to help discourage vegetation growth that could harbor pests
- Ensure the grounds surrounding the facility are properly maintained, as overgrown