




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



Proper pest control is imperative to the success and safety of healthcare facilities as they must maintain the highest level of sanitation to ensure optimal patient care. Pests that frequently invade these facilities like rodents, cockroaches, ants, flies and bed bugs are capable of contaminating the environment and transmitting disease to employees and patients.

Effective pest control in healthcare 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 healthcare facility, Franklin Pest Solutions recommends the following tips:

INTERIOR

- Vacuum rooms thoroughly, including offices, hallways, lobbies and public bathrooms
- Ensure kitchen 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
- Regularly clean patient rooms to remove spills or garbage that may attract pests
- Inspect patient rooms and waiting areas for evidence of a bed bug infestation like seeing bed bugs, their eggs, skin molts or small reddish brown fecal spots
- If you do identify a bed bug issue, follow proper laundry handling practices to reduce the risk of spreading bed bugs, including keeping clean and dirty laundry separate and ensuring all carts remain in the hallway during service
- Schedule regular inspections with a qualified pest control company that is experienced in working with healthcare 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