

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Advice on Disinfecting food premises: Rodent infestations or Insect infestations

Things to consider:-

1. Cease trading until infestation is dealt with;
2. Recall any affected food products.
3. Dispose of any foodstuffs & packaging which have not been adequately protected- these will include gnawed foods and any open or stored foods which have been exposed to risk of contact or contamination from the rodents/insects.
4. Pest proof all rodent/insect pest access points.
5. Remove any harbourages- either inside or outside the premises.
6. Consider the extent of the infestation and any Media/Public/Legal reaction.
7. Initiate cleaning & disinfection.
8. Contact a reputable pest control company to survey & treat the premises.
9. Consider the need for the services of a builder or maintenance engineer.

Foodstuffs

- any products & packaging materials which have been exposed to rodent/insect activity or rodent/insect infestation will need to be disposed of- this will include any open foods, or any foods/packaging which have been exposed to risk of rodent/insect contact (& the diseases they carry, including leptospirosis and salmonella).
- If the outer surfaces of tinned or packaged goods have been exposed to risk of rodent contact, they will similarly need to be considered for disposal (Products in freezers may not necessarily need to be disposed of).
- Any products which had/have been produced when the rodent/ insect problem became active, should be subject to product recall & disposal.

Premises & work surfaces & equipment.

- Pest proof all access points- particularly check for:- holes around waste pipes and service ducting & ventilation conduits; grilles to sewers and drainage pipes; doors and door frames; false ceilings & suspended floors; window screens; drainage gullies and water downpipes; loft spaces and eaves; cavity walls and neighbouring rooms. Externally, brickwork pointing and sewer covers should be checked. Any holes or access points should be blocked up with robust materials, such as cement or metal grilles (Temporary repairs can sometimes be achieved by using a combination of metal mesh and expanding foam or mastic).

- Remove all clutter and historic evidence of rodent droppings / insect waste. Ensure all refuse and harbourages are removed from site, and any undergrowth or trees/shrubs are cut back.
- Disinfect all work surfaces, cutlery, crockery, work equipment, work utensils, etc using an Approved Disinfectant (to BS EN 1276:1997 or BS EN 13697:2001) mixed to the correct strength and left for the correct contact time. Ensure that anti-bac hand soap and adequate hand washing and drying facilities are available.
- Engage the services of a reputable Pest Control company to undertake a survey and riddance treatment programme- which usually include various visits during the first week and regular follow ups- either on a pay-per-visit or contract basis.
- Engage any other required specialist tradesmen- such as electricians; builders; sewerage CCTV camera surveyors; gas safe engineers; etc.
- Main sewers are the responsibility of Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water (from 1st October 2010). However, private drains remain the responsibility of the businesses/landlord.

Additional Staff time may be required to ensure that Disinfection of the premises occurs (each day) prior to re-commencing trading.

Daily checks should be undertaken to assess for new droppings or signs of rodent/ insect activity. Pest Control technicians will usually check whether any rodenticide or insecticide bait has been taken from baiting boxes/baiting stations.

Premises which have been closed for an extended period should be re-checked before re-commencing trading (EG after weekends, or school holiday breaks etc).

Where a continuing active infestation is evident, the Council (Environmental Health Department) may apply to the Magistrates Court for a HEPO (Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Order) to formally keep the business closed, until any health risk is completely removed. Other legal action, including prosecution for operating a food premises with a pest infestation / operating a dirty/insanitary food premises will be considered separately- as will any other food hygiene offences discovered (including the pre-mature re-opening of a food business, which is subject to a closure).

Officers of the Council have legal Powers of Entry to enter food business premises at any reasonable time to inspect and enforce food safety regulations. Food Businesses Operators are continually under a duty to provide reasonable assistance and co-operation. Obstruction of an Officer is an offence. Police assistance can be sought. Where a Food Business Operator or other relevant representative is called for interview as a person suspected of commissioning an offence, a formal PACE taped interview will be arranged (under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984).