



How to Manage Vermin in Hotels and Motels



Bed bugs were almost entirely eliminated in the United States more than forty years ago by mass treatments with older types of insecticides such as DDT. Over the past decade, bed bug infestations have increased throughout the U.S. and has become more widespread.

The problem of a bed bug infestation in a motel or hotel is somewhat unique. When bed bugs invade a lodging establishment, the most important services the business offers – a clean, safe bed and a good night’s sleep – are threatened. Therefore, it is important to consider both prevention *and* response tactics and strategies to deal with this problem. Regular inspections can prevent the spread of an infestation. Sensible controls and rapid response can contain infestations and reduce the impact on guests and the reputation of a business. Any successful hotel/motel Integrated Pest Management plan should include bed bug prevention.

For more information on bed bugs, please visit US Environmental Protection Agency’s “Bed Bugs: Get Them Out and Keep Them Out” at www.epa.gov/bedbugs.

Cockroaches are found in warm, moist areas, and are most active at night. They are rarely seen during daylight hours unless you have a BIG problem. Just one live roach seen during the day could mean at least 50-100 more “friends” hiding in the walls.



Cockroaches need food, water and shelter to survive. Roaches are attracted to junk, food particles and cluttered areas. ***Good housekeeping and repairs are the keys to keeping roaches under control.***

A professional exterminator has the tools and the knowledge to effectively handle roaches in large institutions such as hotel and motels. It is recommended that you contract with a licensed exterminator for your pest control management plan.

Rodents live in many places around your property and can easily enter your facility. Rats only need a 1/2 inch space to enter buildings. They nest in places such as palm trees, ivy and lumber piles. Rats also carry fleas that may carry bubonic plague or murine typhus. Keeping plants trimmed away from buildings, removing attractive food sources such as fallen fruit or garbage spills, and keeping door weather stripping in good repair are things you can do to deter rodents.



Because of the complexity involved in managing pests at a large facility such as a hotel, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) strongly recommends the use of a licensed pest control operator. These professionals have the tools and knowledge to effectively prevent any vermin issues. For more information on specific vermin issues, please contact the DEHS Mosquito and Vector Control Program at 800-442-2283 or visit our website at ehs.sbcounty.gov/.