

IPM

IPM (Integrated Pest Management) is a pest management program that stresses continual prevention or suppression of pest problems. The key elements are prevention, monitoring, identification, and suppression.

1) **Prevention** is the practice of keeping pests from entering the store or processing areas.

Prevention is also eliminating conditions favorable for pests to hide, live and breed.

2) **Monitoring** is continual inspecting, checking, trapping or other specific methods to determine if any pests are active in the area.

3) **Identification** is learning what pests have been found by the monitoring program.

4) **Suppression** is the control or elimination of pests using approved pest control measures.

The most common pests in food stores and restaurants are rodents and various insects, including roaches, weevils and meal moths. For that reason the methods listed below will deal primarily with insects and rodents. These methods will not only be effective against insects and rodents but are good practices for eliminating most problems. Obtain professional help for any pest problems that do not immediately show signs of improving. Infestations can grow enormously in a short period of time.

Specific Actions

- 1) Prevention -- Pests can be prevented through stock rotation, sanitation and exclusion. Food should be stored off floors and 18” from the wall. Keep doors closed when not in use. Seal doors light tight, pests can enter through very small openings.
- 2) Monitoring -- Black light traps, zone monitors and allure traps are standard methods for monitoring. Look for droppings, chewings, live insects and/or rodents.
- 3) Identification – Life cycle and habits. Identification materials or professional pest control advice. Compare to identification photos.
- 4) Suppression – Through treatment of sites where pests live and throughout infested areas. Professional treatment is recommended for suppression.

For much more helpful free advice visit the Copesan internet site at www.copesan.com.

Copesan is an international alliance of pest control companies.

Common pests

Rat

Cockroach

Indian Meal Moth

