FOOD SERVICE PEST REFERENCE · FREE TOOL

Exclusion Walk

Doors, screens, gaps, pipe penetrations, drains and vents, measured against what the Food Code and the biology actually say: a quarter inch admits a mouse, a half-inch door gap admits a young rat, a 16-mesh screen keeps out flying insects.

Prepared by Trenton S. Frazer, M.S., BCE #B3413 · Version 1.0, November 3, 2026 · Not legal advice

How to use this document

Walk the outside of the building once with this list, a flashlight and a pencil (a standard pencil is about a quarter inch across; if it slides under a door, so does a mouse). Then walk the inside. Every box you cannot check is an item for the corrective-action log with a name on it: staff, maintenance, your pest company, or the landlord if the lease puts the building on the landlord. The thresholds come from the FDA Food Code (6-202.15: holes and gaps filled, windows closed and tight-fitting, doors solid, self-closing and tight-fitting; 16-mesh to 1-inch screens or air curtains where openings must stay open) and from University of California IPM (mice through 1/4-inch openings; young rats under a 1/2-inch door gap; seal holes larger than 1/4 inch; sparrows through openings over 3/4 inch). Not legal advice.

Exterior doors (every one, including emergency exits)

- ☐ Door closes and latches by itself (self-closer or spring hinge works)
  Note:
- ☐ No daylight under the door; a pencil does not slide under; sweep or threshold seal intact
  Note:
- ☐ No gap at the sides or top; weatherstripping intact
  Note:
- ☐ Door is solid (no missing panel, no broken glass)
  Note:
- ☐ Nothing props it open: no wedge, no bucket, no chair; a rule for the delivery door
  Note:
- ☐ If a door or window must stay open for ventilation: 16-mesh screen or a working air curtain
  Note:

Windows and vents

- [ ] Every opening window has an intact 16-mesh screen

  Note:

- [ ] Every exterior vent, exhaust and intake is screened with mesh of 1/4 inch or less (1/2 inch keeps out sparrows and starlings; 1/4 inch keeps out mice)

  Note:

- [ ] Roof-top hood penthouse and ducts sealed where they meet the roof; no bird nests

  Note:

Walls, foundation and penetrations

- [ ] Every pipe, conduit, gas line, cable and drain penetration sealed (copper mesh plus sealant, or sheet metal); no opening larger than 1/4 inch

  Note:

- [ ] No cracks or holes at the base of the wall, the slab edge or the foundation

  Note:

- [ ] Dock seals and levelers intact; no gap at the dock door

  Note:

- [ ] Siding, trim and coving intact where they meet the ground

  Note:

Dumpster, grease bin and outside

- [ ] Dumpster lid closes and stays closed; no bags beside it

  Note:

- [ ] Grease bin lid closes; no overflow; pad clean

  Note:

- [ ] Pad hosed; no standing water; drain clear

  Note:

- [ ] Vegetation and stored items at least a foot off the building; no ivy or stacked material against walls

  Note:

- [ ] No bird roosting on ledges, signage or the patio rail; spikes or netting where they do

  Note:

Interior: the same list from the inside

- [ ] Back of every penetration sealed where the pipe enters the wall inside

  Note:

- [ ] Gaps behind and under fixed equipment sealed or equipment spaced for cleaning

  Note:

- [ ] Coving and base tile intact; no voids behind the base of the wall

  Note:

- [ ] Floor drains have covers; drain bodies scrubbed on schedule

  Note:

- [ ] Dry storage walls and ceiling tight; no openings into the ceiling plenum

  Note: