



McCloud Services provides spring pest-proofing tips for food facilities

SERVICE SPECIALISTS SINCE 1904

By Pat Hottel, Technical Director, McCloud Services

April is National Pest Management Month; McCloud Services Encourages Spring Pest Proofing

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McCloud Services, a leading pest management company servicing Illinois as well as **Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Wisconsin**, is proud to celebrate National Pest Management Month, a public observance formally recognized each year by the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) to acknowledge the pest management industry's commitment to the protection of public health and property from pest threats. Additionally, as spring is an especially busy time for pest-related activity, McCloud Services encourages food facilities to take proactive pest proofing steps in the coming weeks.

"We are proud to be members of an industry which plays an important role in people's everyday lives and are committed to helping homeowners and businesses protect their homes and facilities, ensuring public places and residences are free of disease-carrying pests," said Chris McCloud, president and CEO for McCloud Services.

"As pests emerge from their overwintering spots, we encourage food facilities to take simple prevention steps that will make a big difference in staving off infestations during the warmer months," added Patricia Hottel, technical director for McCloud Services.

McCloud Services says there are three main factors that will contribute to pest activity outside. They include easy access to food, water and shelter. It is important to limit these factors as much as possible and reduce the general attraction of the structure to pests.

Ways to minimize water:

- Use drip irrigation versus automated sprinkler systems for turf and ornamentals.
- Make sure that the ground around the structure properly drains. Use of drainage tiles can help reduce standing water near the foundation. In addition, make sure that the ground slopes away from the building to draw the water away from the building.
- Properly direct water collected off the roof away from the structure using gutters and downspouts to move water away and not allow it to puddle or erode soil.
- Fix any leaking faucets or other exterior water pipes.
- Keep roofs and paved areas in good condition to avoid potholes, and depressions which collect water.
- Use gravel (1" or larger rock size and 6" deep and 18"-24" wide) versus mulch around the building perimeter. Common soil covers like wood mulch retains moisture and attracts a wide variety of moisture dependent insects and insect related arthropods such as sow bugs, millipedes, psocids and springtails.



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Ways to minimize food:

- Keep dumpster/compactor areas cleaned and lids closed on free standing dumpster carts.
- Clean up spillage promptly.
- Avoid planting trees and shrubs which might produce fruit or nuts and provide food for vertebrate and insect pests. Even flowering plants can attract a wide variety of insects, including bees and wasps. Trees located close to the structure can attract birds which may then enter the building.
- Keep tree branches trimmed away from the building and not touching the structure. This will help reduce pathways for pests like ants and rodents into the structure.
- Properly maintain exterior employee break areas. Keep them free from spillage and food containers.
- Use trash receptacles with self-closing lids to exclude foraging pests. Open trash receptacles allow active foraging.

Ways to minimize shelter and exclude pests:

- Seal cracks and crevices which can harbor insects and may also lead into the structure. Use a sealant that is designed for exterior use and suitable for the surfaces applied.
- Use screens to exclude pests from vents and windows that are opened for ventilation purposes.
- Ground covers and low growing plants can encourage pest activity and provide shelter. Use plants which are more "V" shaped so that as much of the soil is exposed for inspection as possible.
- Keep doors closed when not in use and consider automatic timers and other devices to help insure that doors close.

Contact McCloud Services to learn more about their pest proofing services and how they can help resolve all your pest-related issues at 800-332-7805 or at contact@mccloudservices.com

About McCloud Services

McCloud Services, based in South Elgin, Ill., is the leader in food protection services throughout the chain of custody – from grain elevator to grocery store. McCloud Services is known for its integrated approach to pest management, specifically designed for the food supply chain of custody. Serving the largest food-related brands in the U.S., the company has earned a reputation as the "food protection experts." McCloud Services has locations in 11 states with nine service centers. For more information, please visit:

www.mccloudservices.com.

Proud to serve the largest food-related brands in the U.S.