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Copesan is an alliance of premier pest management companies that are united as a single entity for the sole purpose of providing quality pest solutions to businesses with locations throughout North America.

Update Your Fly Program: ILTs

By Sam Makhani, Corporate Quality Assurance Manager for Western Exterminator Co. in Anaheim, California

Insect light traps (ILTs) have gained wide acceptance for the control of flying insects indoors in food processing plants, food service establishments, hospitals, health care facilities, pharmaceutical plants, hotels and other related facilities.

ILTs are commonly used because food hygiene regulations require that food is wholesome and safe and has not been contaminated by insect pests. Businesses are required to demonstrate “due diligence” by showing that they have taken every precaution against contamination from flying insect pests.

Since there are so many different species of flying insects and their behavior is subject to so many different influences, flying insect control is not simple. Just hanging up a few professional fly traps at random will not automatically solve a pest problem. The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach emphasizes exclusion and sanitation first. However, if a few flying insects sneak into a facility, then ILTs are very important.

Location, location, location

ILTs that use ultraviolet light as an attractant are considered the most useful at attracting flying insects. They

should be located in places that draw flies away from sensitive areas, not toward them. Do not place ILTs where they can possibly attract outside insects into a facility.

Perform routine maintenance

ILTs require routine maintenance for optimum performance. ILTs should be inspected and cleaned weekly in peak fly season and at least monthly during the rest of the year. An important part of maintenance is to check the unit’s performance. Reminder: ILTs must be plugged in and working to perform.



Regularly replace ILT tubes

ILTs tubes (bulbs) should be replaced at least once a year for the best performance. Generally, phosphorus degradation in the tube reduces UV light emissions

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at approximately 4 to 5 percent each month. Therefore, it is best to replace tubes before spring or warm weather (fly season) to be assured of peak performance. For most of North America, it's time to replace tubes now, if they haven't been replaced already this year.

Keys to IPM program success

The success of a fly IPM program depends on pest exclusion, careful sanitation, thorough inspections, good communication, appropriate pest management tools, and a strong partnership between the client and Copesan. Properly used ILTs are very effec-

tive tools for flying insect control and surveillance.

Contact Copesan or your local Copesan Service Center if you have questions about ILTs or go to www.Copesan.com for more information on updating your fly program.



Clean drains can promote small fly control

By Richard Berman, Technical Director for Waltham Services in Waltham, Massachusetts

If you have flies in your facility, you need to correctly identify and treat the source, so your fly problem doesn't continue to persist after treatment. Drains present one source of flies that isn't always obvious, especially if the drain looks clean on the surface.

For example, floor drains that fail can leak effluent into inaccessible spaces and soil, creating organically rich environments that will attract and support insect growth. Phorid flies, drain flies, fruit flies, dung flies and American cockroaches are some of the more common insects associated with failed drains and plumbing.

The anatomy of a floor drain

While there are many different types of drains- from round drains, square drains and long, narrow trench drains- all drains have grate-like metal covers on

the top surface. Under the floor grate, many drains have a removable basket designed to trap and catch solids before being washed into the drain pipe, which can form a clog. Some drains have a second catch basket under the first.

Beneath the drain is a length of pipe that is designed to hold water and keep sewer gases and other odors from backing up into interior spaces. The trap is often located 12 to 24 inches below the floor grate, and in most cases, it is easily visible, but it can sometimes be located many feet away and not accessible or easily seen.

Why drains fail

Floor drains can fail in different ways:

- The flange at the top of the pipe, or recessed space in the floor, can separate from the floor

tile, allowing liquid waste and wash water to leak into the adjacent space and miss going down the drain completely.

- Old pipes (especially cast iron ones) can become brittle and crack. Buildings subject to settling can put stress on the waste pipes causing them to bend and twist, creating leaks and breaks.

- If a drain's water trap is allowed to dry out, small flies breeding in septic tanks or grease traps further down the pipeline can move back up the drain. This sometimes happens when a floor is damp washed and water is never flushed down the drain to keep the U trap charged with a volume of water. This type of drain can easily be kept full by making sure water is flushed down it on a regular basis.

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• The most common reason drain systems fail is because they are not kept clean. The larval stage for the flies reported previously is semi-aquatic, and they must feed and live in wet, organically rich waste. Drains catch this waste if they are not routinely cleaned. If they are not cleaned, the perfect fly breeding medium is created. Contaminated waste water has organic solids and will accumulate over time in and on the catch baskets, the under-side of the floor grate and on the sides of the drain pipe itself.

Recommendations:

1. Regular cleaning is necessary. All establishments should open their drains and clean them on a regularly scheduled basis, even if they look clean on the

surface. Pouring cleaners and biological agents down drains without first physically cleaning the floor grate, catch basket and pipe is not effective drain cleaning and will not work. These areas need to be scrubbed with a stiff brush. Then cleaners and biological agents can be used to keep the drain cleaner, longer.

2. **Employees need tools and instruction.** Employees responsible for cleaning floor drains need to be given the proper tools necessary to open and physically clean the drains, as well as instruction on how the drains should be cleaned. When staff changes, new personnel need to be trained.

3. **Drains must be accessible.** Designers and planners of new construction and renovations must never allow drains to be construct-

ed under equipment, making them inaccessible or difficult to reach for cleaning.

Cleaning floor drains is not a glamorous job and may not be the final solution to dirty conditions allowing small flies to breed and infest an establishment, but this function is a key component to any establishment's cleaning program. Without regularly cleaning drains, effective small fly control will be difficult, if not impossible.

Fly help

For help in identifying the source of a fly problem in your facility, contact Copesan or your local Copesan Service Center.



Military pest management has same mission: To protect public health and property

By Shane L. McCoy, Technical Training Director, Wil-Kil Pest Control, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

For almost 12 years, I did pest management and pest management training for the U.S. Air Force. You might be surprised to learn that our operations are not much different from that of private pest management companies.

The mission of the Air Force Pest Management Professionals

(PMPs) is to establish and maintain safe, effective, and environmentally sound integrated pest management (IPM) programs to prevent or control pests and disease vectors that may adversely impact readiness or military operations by affecting the health of personnel or damaging structures, material, or property.

Taking care of the customer

Initially, you might think that military PMPs just treat aircraft and office buildings on the base. Pest management on an Air Force base is far more diverse and challenging than just planes and buildings. Since the base is like a small city, we actually serviced all military residential housing,

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numerous fast food facilities, food halls, enlisted and officer's clubs, the commissary (grocery store), BX (like a small Wal-Mart), schools, day care centers, hospitals, fitness centers, bowling lanes and recreational facilities, military guest lodging, the grounds, and a golf course.

We also treated the airport flight lines and taxiways for weeds, and we treated weapons storage areas for weeds, insects, and rodents.

Since we had to perform the pest management for the entire base, we needed to know the whole gamut of pest management. Over just a few days, we may perform termite treatments or roach baiting; remove skunks or raccoons; do bird work; capture mice in the commissary or a bat in an office building; control wasps, fire ants or turf and ornamental pests; perform fly program maintenance; monitor stored product pests; or survey for mosquitoes and ticks.

Like private pest management companies, we performed all these tasks with the common goal of taking care of the customer using IPM strategies.

Consequences for doing a poor job

When a military PMP performs

a service, the organization is charged. If the service is poor, the organization can use a private pest management company.



When I arrived at my base in New Jersey, a private pest management company was doing the pest management for the enlisted club and officer's club. When I asked why, the short answer was that we were not doing our job. My goal was to win these customers, and we did.

Laws and regulations

Of course, we had to comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations when performing pest management services on Department of Defense (DoD) lands. In addition, we had Air Force and DoD instructions that we had to follow. In foreign lands, we had to comply with all Status of Forces Agreements developed between the United States and the host nation. If we caused any harm to things like

nearby crops or protected species, we had to pay for it.

Certifications and management plans

All PMPs who apply pesticides on DoD property must be certified. The Air Force requires successful completion of a 33-day technical school and then a certification upgrade training about a year later, on-the-job training, and a correspondence course before certifying Air Force PMPs.

All Air Force pest management offices must also have a pest management plan that is reviewed and updated annually. It consists of all functions of pest management and includes all material safety data sheets and labels, personnel names, inventory, spill plans, endangered species list, points of contact, training plans and any questions about the pest management operations.

Same mission

While there are some differences between military and private pest management company operations, the goal of providing the best pest management possible for the client using IPM strategies remains the same.



IPM success on cruise ships

By Michael Santiano, Vice President, Santiano Brothers, Miami, Florida

With many restaurants, bars and lounges located in a contained area of less than 1,000 feet in length, pest management is absolutely critical for the health of cruise ship passengers and crew.

There have been many changes and improvements in pest management on cruise ships in the last 25 years. For example, we have developed and implemented Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs on cruise ships with very good results. Since 2000, logs of our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) activities became a requirement.

Vessel Sanitation Program

IPM on cruise ships is a bit different than IPM in a traditional full-service hotel.

At all U.S. ports, cruise ships must have a United States Public Health (USPH) inspection as part of the CDC's (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) Vessel Sanitation Program (VSP).

The inspection verifies the presence of a pest management plan, including pest monitoring and surveillance, pest man-

agement training, pest logs, pesticide documentation, and other program components. The inspection also reviews food inspection results, including pest inspections of the ship's food areas and incoming food shipments.

Mandatory pre-board food inspection

Each week, a typical cruise ship loads up enough food to feed 2,000 to 3,000 passengers plus crew for seven to 10 days. Before a shipment of food is brought onto the ship, the USPH Vessel Sanitation Program requires that it is inspected for insects, rodents, and other pests, both on the pier and onboard before it is placed into storage.

Round-the-clock monitoring required

Cockroach monitoring stations are located throughout the ship, especially in food areas. These stations are labeled on a ship map and inspected at least once a week, sometimes during the middle of the night. Findings are then documented in the IPM log.

Many cruise ships visit ports

and regions where fly populations are quite large, which makes flies another potential health problem. Therefore, insect light traps (ILTs) are placed in most areas. The ILTs are monitored at least as frequently as the cockroach monitors.

Crew training and involvement essential

Since pest management specialists are not on board the ship at all times, we train the ship's personnel to identify different pests. We also provide them with pictures of the most important pests to help in the identification process. All of their findings are recorded in the log.

For example, a growing pest problem on cruise ships in recent years is bed bugs. We now train housekeeping personnel on how to inspect cabins for bed bugs and evidence of bed bugs. We also teach them how to treat an infested passenger or crew cabin. The training includes how to document their findings and actions in a log.

Since the personnel on cruise ships typically changes every six to eight months, we hold our pest management training classes for

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the crew every six months. Training sometimes can be a challenge with crew members from so many different parts of the world, but it is essential to successful pest management.

IPM success

While the unique nature of cruise ships poses various pest management concerns, we have

been able to pass all the USPH inspections and tests, using the IPM principles of:

- Administrative support
- Frequent inspection and monitoring
- Pest identification
- Effective training
- Tailored pest solutions
- Thorough documentation
- Periodic program review

IPM today has successfully eliminated roaches and rats aboard cruise ships and kept new pest problems to a minimum.



Information in this publication was researched and prepared by highly regarded experts within the pest management industry who are part of the Copesan Partnership. Copesan has more technical expertise located throughout North America than any other pest management firm. The IPM Update is a small sampling of the knowledge and expertise we provide to our clients.

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