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Liquid food processing and storage facilities

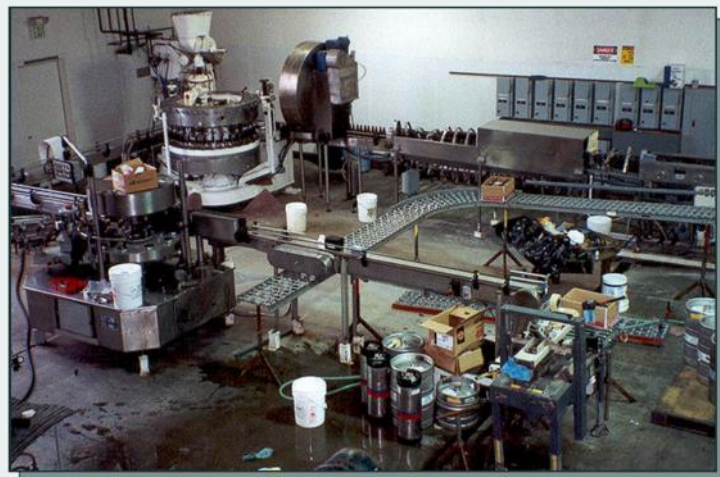
Wet foods and wet clean-up mean moisture-loving pests

No two food facilities are alike. If you do pest control in food plants, you know that it's important to know exactly what the plant produces, the equipment used, production and storage procedures, and the flow of materials through the facility.

conveyor (roller, belt, screw, bucket, or pneumatic), labeller, shrink wrap machine, pasteurizer, ribbon mixer or blender, batch mixer, screen separator, filler, and channel or trench floor drain.

Common pests in liquid food processing facilities

As you can imagine, the insects and mites that become pests in liquid food



There are basically two types of food facilities—those that produce or store liquid or moist materials and those that produce or store dry food materials. Although many of the pest management practices for the two are the same, many are not. For example, in a liquid food processing plant, you have the added variable of moisture which influences the types of pests you are dealing with and how you control them.

Some examples of liquid food processing facilities are beverage plants, bottling plants, breweries, canning facilities, dairies and wineries. Some facilities, like breweries, process both liquid and dry foods and you would need to employ methods for both.

Special conditions in Liquid Food Processing Facilities

Not only do the foods processed here contain liquids, but these facilities typically use wet clean-up procedures and high pressure to sanitize their equipment and the surrounding area, adding to the moisture level. You may have more need for structural repairs in a liquid facility than in a dry one because the excess moisture degrades floors and walls. Deteriorated floors, and the gunk they collect, provide good breeding sites for cockroaches and small flies. Floors must funnel wastewater towards the drains and the drains must be able to accommodate the amount of wastewater generated.

processing plants are generally those with higher moisture requirements. These pests benefit from the excess moisture combined with the heat from equipment. These are the typical pests in these facilities and where to find them:

- **German cockroaches**— In or under processing equipment, oven insulation, electrical boxes, under pipe insulation, wall voids, between layers of wall coverings.
- **American cockroaches**— Sewers, floor drains, elevator pits, basements and crawlspaces.
- **Small fruit flies** — Areas where syrup or food debris has accumulated, garbage receptacles, recyclables, conveyor trays, break rooms, broken jars or cans in storage areas.
- **Dark-eyed fruit flies** — Drains (and cracks in surrounding tiles), areas where food debris has accumulated, garbage receptacles, dumpsters/compactors, deteriorated floors, break rooms, broken jars or cans in storage areas.
- **Phorid flies**— Drains, garbage receptacles, dumpsters/compactors, deteriorated floors, broken jars or cans in storage areas, break rooms.
- **Drain flies** — Drains, condensate trays, and lines
- **Filth flies** — (including house flies and bottle flies) - Garbage receptacles, dumpsters/compactors, dock areas, exterior.
- **Yellowjackets, honey bees** — Syrup tanks, outside syrup/sugar silos.

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REGISTRATION NO: AGRI/c
prov/0207/08
FET REGISTRATION NO: 2012/
FE07/001

**Processing equipment used in Liquid
food facilities**

It's important that you know the proper terminology for various pieces of equipment so that you can communicate with your client's staff and direct attention to the right piece of equipment in your reports. There is a wide variety and some operations use specialized equipment. If you don't know what a piece of equipment is, ask a staff member during your inspection. These are some of the common pieces of equipment found in a liquid food processing facility: capping machine,

tanks, outside syrup/sugar silos, dumpsters, garbage receptacles, roofs

- *Rodents* – Warehouses, break rooms, maintenance areas, processing areas, exterior.
- *Pest birds* – (pigeons, sparrows, starlings) – exterior, roof, loading dock, warehouse areas.

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