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## DRY FOOD PROCESSING & STORAGE FACILITIES

Plenty of food "dust" makes insect control challenging

Food processing or food storage facilities can be generally divided into those that handle liquid or wet foods and those that process or store dry foods. Dry food processing facilities usually don't have the chronic moisture issues or the moisture pests, but in any dry processing facility, damp conditions can occur in areas where there is condensation, plumbing leaks, or roof leaks.

table, and hammer mill.

Common pests in dry food processing facilities

While liquid food processing facilities are plagued mainly by cockroaches and flies, dry food processing facilities are more likely to have problems with pests such as stored product beetles, food moths, and rodents. Insect light traps (ILTs) that play a major role in liquid food plants are less important than pheromone traps in dry food plants. Pests that predominate in dry facilities are those that can survive without free water.



Some examples of dry food processing facilities are flour mills, rice mills, feed mills, mix plants, confectionery or candy plants, seed and bean processing, and dry pet food production.

Special conditions in dry food processing facilities

While moisture is a concern in liquid food processing facilities, food dust is the concern in facilities that produce dry foods. Fine, airborne food particles can settle in cracks and crevices, in electrical panels, in ducts, along pipes, and in various inaccessible areas. This food dust is difficult to remove with cleaning and can provide hidden food for insects. Cleaning in dry food processing facilities often uses compressed air which not only scatters the food dust, but can also scatter insects and their eggs into new areas. Dust collection systems can be a problem when insects live in the duct work and equipment itself. To reduce these problems, dry food facilities are advised to use vacuum systems and keep collection units cleaned out.

Sticky traps are of limited use in dry

These are the typical pests in these facilities and where to find them:

*Indian meal moth* (and other food moths)- Under lids of storage bins, under and inside equipment, in unused equipment, anywhere that there is an accumulation of food dust or debris.

*Flour beetles* (red and confused)- In processing equipment, sifters, electrical boxes, floor cracks, cracks in head houses and air locks, under roll stands, pipe insulation, in joints of flexible connectors on equipment.

*Warehouse beetles*- On window sills, in ILTs, electrical boxes and panels, sample retention rooms, head houses of grain storage bins

*Cigarette and drugstore beetles*- In spices, dried vegetables, processing equipment, scales, unused equipment, unused piping, and in conveyors.

*Sawtoothed grain beetles*- In chocolate production equipment, insulation of enrobers, in cocoa, nut, and dried fruit

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REGISTRATION NO: AGR1/c  
prov/0207/08  
FET REGISTRATION NO: 2012/  
FE07/001**

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facilities because of the high amount of airborne dust. If used, place the traps inside a protective station. Some facilities may even have dust explosion hazards that require special equipment like explosion-proof flashlights. Grain bins, silos, and tanks may be permit-required confined spaces.

#### Processing Equipment used in dry food facilities

Dry food processing facilities use much of the same food production equipment as liquid food facilities with the addition of bins to store grain, and machines to separate, clean, grind, and shape grains and other dry foods. These are some of the additional pieces of equipment found in a dry food processing facility: grain elevator, silo, bin, hopper, extruder, magnetic separator, dust collection system, sifter, scourer, de-stoning equipment, gravity

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storage, in equipment that processes grains.

**Lesser grain borers, granary weevils, rice and maize weevils-** Always associated with Whole grains; in grain storage bins, head houses, and conveyor tunnels under grain bins.

**Filth Flies** (including house flies and bottle flies) - While rare, filth fly larvae can develop in areas where water and food debris accumulate.

**Rodents-** Warehouses, break rooms, maintenance areas, processing areas, exterior.

**Pest birds** (pigeons, sparrows, starlings) - Exterior, roof, loading dock, warehouses.

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29 Hazelwood Rd Hazelwood | Pretoria, Gauteng Phone: 0861999900 | Fax: 0123467453

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