

# RATS AND COCKROACHES IN A MANUFACTURING PLANT.

## CASE STUDY



### SNAPSHOT

#### SITUATION SUMMARY

Manufacturing plants, even when they do not produce food-related products, can attract pests since they can provide warmth, harborage, and sometimes water. For these facilities, exterior defenses are critical to preventing pests from invading.

A car manufacturing facility was experiencing persistent infestations of Norway rats and American cockroaches. While the product wasn't at risk, management was concerned about employee safety and wellbeing.

The American cockroach activity occurred year-round, suggesting an indoor source like sewers and steam tunnels rather than outdoor populations. Both this pest and the Norway rat pose a medical risk by spreading pathogens and harboring parasites.

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#### INDUSTRY

Manufacturing & logistics



#### TARGET PEST

Norway rats and  
American cockroaches



#### OVERVIEW

Norway rats and American cockroaches were plaguing an automobile manufacturing plant.



## INSPECTION FINDINGS

Our investigation at the manufacturing plant revealed that both American cockroaches and Norway rats were entering from exterior sources due to insufficient exterior defenses.

The American cockroaches were primarily harbored in the sewer system, using drains and sump pumps to infiltrate employee areas, including offices, restrooms, and basements.

The Norway rats were based outside, with numerous burrows discovered in a small grassy area near an exterior dumpster where employees took breaks. Despite most of the area being paved, the rats utilized the limited soil for harborage. Rats entered the facility occasionally through poorly sealed doors or doors left open for ventilation. The area also provided a consistent food source from trash left behind by employees.



## SUCCESSFUL SOLUTION

The technicians implemented a targeted plan to address the Norway rat and American cockroach infestations.

For the Norway rats, technicians directly treated exterior burrows near the dumpster by placing pelletized bait inside them. After several days of baiting, the burrows were sealed and monitored



### COCKROACHES AND RESPIRATORY ISSUES.

**Cockroaches are a known source of allergens and can worsen asthma symptoms in some people.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> American Lung Association. "What makes indoor air unhealthy? Cockroaches," <http://www.lung.org>. Updated November 2, 2023. Accessed November 14, 2023.

for new activity. To prevent future burrowing, it was recommended that the small grassy patch be sealed with concrete. The team also placed additional rodent bait stations along the building perimeter for continuous monitoring and control. To stop rodent entry into the facility, technicians pest-proofed doors and trained staff on the critical importance of keeping doors closed. Plant staff also added trash receptacles with self-closing lids to eliminate the rats' exterior food source.

To control American cockroaches entering via the sewer system, experts recommended sealing unused drains. For necessary drains, the service team used insecticidal baits, drain screens, or one-way valves. Based on the drain size, the plan utilized either granular or gel baits. In larger drains and sump pumps, granular baits were secured on plastic-backed glue boards and suspended via wire inside the drain covers.

## SUMMARY

Our team established an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, combining non-chemical and chemical methods, achieving full resolution of the American cockroach and Norway rat issues. Since both pests invaded from the exterior, pest proofing was essential for long-term control. Sealing drains and exterior entry points, as well as concreting the rat harborage area provided lasting relief, reduced health risks, and alleviated employee concerns at the car manufacturing plant.

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