

# Prepare your work environment for a clean start after winter

Pests can thrive in any environment where there is water, food and warmth. A thorough knowledge of the conditions in which they thrive and the way they behave is vital.

## Declutter your office

- Discard old cardboard boxes, especially from deliveries, as this is a common way for [cockroaches](#) to enter the premises.
- Throw away those potato chip packaging and candy wrappers. Ensure no crumbs are left behind as this may become a ready food source for [rodents](#), [ants](#) and cockroaches.

## Clean the gutters and drains

Gutters and drains can get clog up with leaves and other natural debris, so ensure they are cleared out on a regular basis. In general, gutters and drains are a major point of entry for pests like cockroaches, possums, rats and mice. Maintain these potential entry points to prevent infestations which may cause serious health issues for staff and possible structural damage. A large component of the world's food loss and spoilage is caused by contamination or physical destruction by rodents.

## Check garbage and disposal areas

It's no secret cockroaches, rats, flies and ants are attracted to garbage bins, garbage compactors and other rubbish. Waste disposal areas are ideal habitats for a myriad of pest species, particularly if those areas are badly maintained.

## Seal holes and gaps

- Ensure all cracks, crevices and gaps around pipes and other penetrations on the walls of your premises are properly sealed. Cockroaches often travel through entire office blocks and warehouses via electrical wiring and pipes.
- If the windows to your office and warehouse aren't fixed, ensure flyscreens are securely in place and void of any gaps. This will help keep the flying insects and other crawling creatures out.
- Check that your doors are shut with minimum gaps, particularly at the bottom. Rats and mice can fit through a gap as small as a 20 cent piece so ensure you safeguard your premises by filling all the gaps regardless of how insignificant they may seem.

For information on how to prevent pests thriving in your home, click [here!](#)

