

Craft Brewery Pest Control: Tips for Fighting Insect Infestation

Craft breweries face persistent challenges from insect infestations, particularly from drain flies and fruit flies.

These pests are drawn to the brewery environment by abundant food sources, moisture, and shelter, and they can compromise product quality, regulatory compliance, and brand reputation if not managed effectively.

WHY BREWERIES ATTRACT FLIES

Breweries provide the three essentials for pests: food, water, and refuge. Fermenting grains, spilled beer, residual sugars, and organic debris create ideal breeding grounds for flies. Moisture from leaky pipes, condensation, or cleaning processes further sustains fly populations. The complex layout of brewing equipment and storage areas offers numerous hiding and breeding spots for these insects.

DRAIN FLIES

Drain flies (also known as moth flies) thrive in the organic sludge found inside drains, floor traps, and moist crevices. Their larvae feed on the biofilm that accumulates in these locations. Signs of a drain fly infestation include small, fuzzy flies hovering near drains, sinks, or damp areas. If left unchecked, they can multiply quickly, becoming both a nuisance and a contamination risk.

Control strategies:

- Regularly clean and sanitize all drains, including floor and trench drains, to remove organic buildup.
- Use enzymatic drain cleaners that break down biofilm without harming plumbing.
- Ensure all drains are free-flowing and dry out areas when not in use to disrupt breeding cycles.
- Inspect and clean under and around brewing equipment where moisture accumulates.

FRUIT FLIES

Fruit flies are attracted to fermenting materials, spilled beer, fruit adjuncts, and residues in bottling and packaging areas. Even small amounts of sugary liquid or organic debris can support a fruit fly population. They breed rapidly, laying eggs on moist surfaces, and can contaminate both raw ingredients and finished products.

Control strategies:

- Promptly clean up spills and remove organic debris from floors, drains, and under equipment.
- Store ingredients and waste in sealed containers; empty trash and recycling frequently.
- Inspect incoming fruit or adjuncts for signs of infestation.
- Use fly traps or UV light traps to monitor and reduce adult populations.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR BREWERIES

A comprehensive pest management plan is crucial for breweries. Integrated pest management emphasizes prevention, monitoring, and targeted control measures to minimize chemical use and environmental impact.

KEY PEST MANAGEMENT STEPS:

Sanitation

Maintain rigorous cleaning schedules for all

surfaces, equipment, and storage areas. Pay special attention to drains, floors, and spots where organic matter can accumulate.

Exclusion

Install screens on doors and windows, seal cracks and crevices, and use door sweeps to prevent insect entry.

Monitoring

Place glue traps and UV light traps strategically to detect early signs of fly activity and identify hotspots.

Structural Maintenance

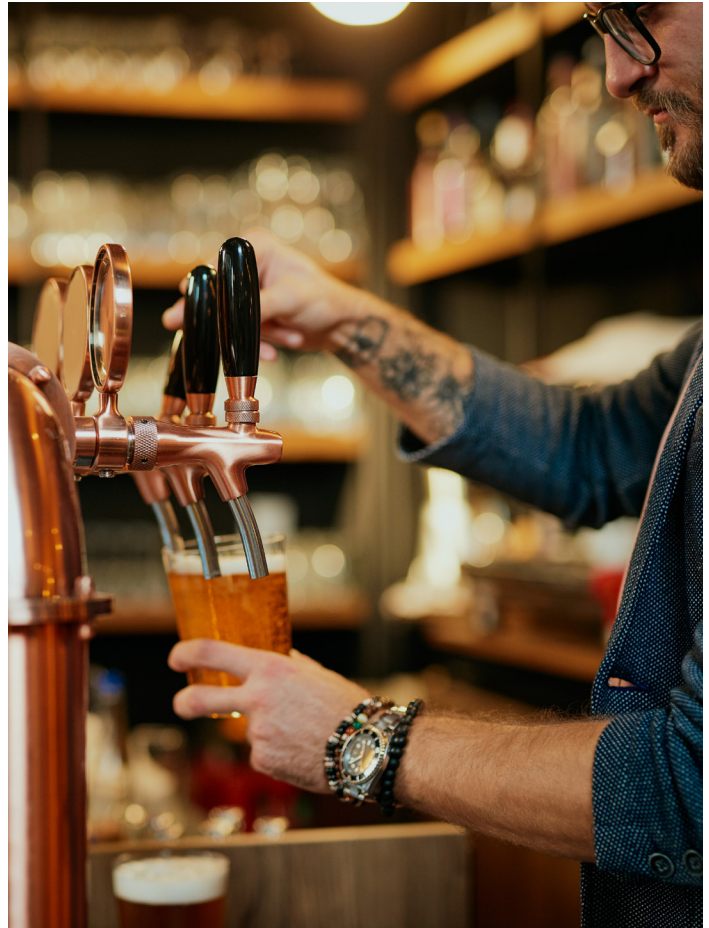
Repair leaks, improve drainage, and ensure proper ventilation to reduce moisture and deter breeding.

Professional Support

Engage pest control professionals for regular inspections and advice on advanced control methods.

CONCLUSION

Fighting drain and fruit fly infestations in craft breweries requires vigilance, cleanliness, and a proactive, integrated approach. By addressing sanitation, structural vulnerabilities, and ongoing monitoring, breweries can protect their products, comply with food safety standards, and maintain a pest-free environment.



If you have questions specific to your business, or would like additional information, please reach out to your HK Henderson Advisor.

™@Local Touch. National Strength. Navacord and Navacord logo are Trademarks of Navacord. The information contained herein is general in nature and general insurance description only. The information is not intended to be insurance advice; nor does it amend, modify or supplement any insurance policy. Consult your actual policy or your broker for details regarding terms, conditions, coverage, exclusions, products, services and programs which may be available to you.

**LET US HELP YOU
MANAGE YOUR RISK**

Saskatoon
Regina
Moose Jaw

hkhenderson.ca
info@hkhenderson.ca
1.888.661.5959

Local Touch. National Strength.™