Post Fire Rodent and Fly Control

August 10, 2026

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

County of Los Angeles Public Health

After a large fire, rodents may move into nearby areas in search of food, water, and places to hide. Rodents can spread disease, contaminate food with their urine and droppings, and damage property by gnawing on wires and other materials.

Take these three steps to help protect your business from rodents.

1. Keep Rodents Out

- Keep doors closed whenever possible.
- Seal gaps and openings where rodents could enter, if possible.

2. Remove Food Sources and Rodent Hiding Places

- Store garbage in waterproof containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Place trash in plastic bags before putting it in the garbage can.
- Keep food in sealed containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Pick up fallen fruit, vegetables, and nuts promptly.
- Remove debris, abandoned furniture, and unused appliances from the property if possible. These items can provide places for rodents to hide.

3. Trap Indoor Rodents

- If rodents are inside, use snap traps or glue boards.
- Avoid using poison baits.
- Place traps where rodent activity has been seen, such as along walls or known rodent runways or travel paths.
- Check traps daily and dispose of trapped rodents promptly.

Clean Up Rodent Droppings and Dead Rodents

- Never sweep or vacuum rodent droppings or nesting materials. This can release contaminated particles into the air.
- Wear gloves and a mask when cleaning areas where rodents or rodent droppings are present.
- Spray rodent droppings, nests, dead rodents, and contaminated surfaces with a household disinfectant before cleaning.
- Use paper towels or disposable cloths to remove contaminated material.
- Place the dead rodent, used paper towels, and disposable gloves in a sealed plastic bag before placing it in the trash.
- Disinfect reusable tools and gloved hands before removing your gloves.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after removing your gloves.

Environmental Health Division
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www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh

Flies may spread germs by flying from dirty places to clean ones. Keeping flies under control helps protect you, customers, and your business.

How to Reduce Flies at Your Business
Most fly problems can be reduced through simple sanitation actions and eliminating moisture sources, as outlined below.

1. **Manage Your Trash**
   - Keep trash can lids closed. Rinse or wipe bins if they become sticky or soiled.

2. **Manage Outdoor Spaces**
   - Look for open trash bins, compost, spills, or other potential sources near entry points that may attract flies.

3. **Check Drains and Pipes**
   - Look for moist, hidden areas where fly larvae might breed and keep floor drains clean.

4. **Protect Food Indoors**
   - Store food in the refrigerator or in sealed containers. Don't leave exposed food on counters. Wipe up spills, especially sticky or sugary ones, right away.

5. **Keep Flies Out**
   - Repair torn window screens. Keep doors closed and check for gaps, cracks, or openings where flies can enter.

Treatment If Flies Are Already Present
If prevention is not enough, you can use traps or contact local exterminators or pest control company.

1. **Indoor/Outdoor Traps**
   - Use disposable fly attractant traps or plug-in indoor traps to reduce existing flies. Do not place them directly above food prep areas.

2. **Local Pest Control**
   - For heavy infestation or breeding sites you cannot reach, contact a local pest control company for assistance.

Common Problem Flies

- **House & Livestock Flies**
  Attracted to animal waste, wet animal bedding, and spilled food.
- **Phorid (Humpbacked) Flies**
  Breed in moist, decaying organic materials like drains, dirty garbage bins, and wet landscape waste.

Report a Problem

To report a complaint and for questions regarding these guidelines, please contact Environmental Health at **(888) 700-9995,** or online at: **ph.lacounty.gov/EH-Complaint**.