

POPCORN STORAGE

GOOD HOUSE KEEPING GUIDE FOR CINEMAS

STORAGE:

1. Store popcorn off concrete floors in a cool; dry environment away from ultra violet light.
2. Stock must be rotated – use oldest first
3. Every 4-6 weeks spray a new pallet with insect surface spray and restack corn. Lightly spray over and around bags.
4. Check rodent baits for scratches or activity.
5. Keep storeroom clean

PESTS:

A. RODENTS:

1. Rats and mice love dark, cluttered places where they can live in peace. They will make nests in undisturbed popcorn. They eat the corn and pose a genuine health threat.

REMEDY:

1. Make a bait station. Obtain some 4” (100mm) – 6” (150mm) PVC pipe around 12” (300mm) – 18” (450mm) long. Write ‘rat bait’ or similar on it in texta.
2. Purchase some waxed rat bait or pellets from the local supermarket and place one kind inside the PVC pipe.
3. Place bait station in secluded, quiet place. Eg. behind corn, cartons, against wall etc. Somewhere away from foot traffic.
4. Check regularly for scratches or activity on the baits. If you have scratches, you have rodents.

5. Change the bait using different formulations or brands every 4-6 weeks. You wouldn't eat the same food every day – rats don't like to either.

B. BAG MOTHS:

1. More of a nuisance than a health hazard but can really turn customers off their popcorn. They live off the dust found in popcorn or other food materials such as ice cream cone dust or similar.
2. Moths can enter your cinema via open doors or in natural products such as corn.
3. All staff should look out for moths when checking storerooms. Look on walls & ceilings – they are not necessarily found near lights. Look for the moth cocoons – they look like a grain of rice wrapped in spider's web. Look for the caterpillars – they are often mistaken for maggots.

REMEDY:

1. You must break the egg, caterpillar, moth, egg..... cycle and this cannot be done by **ONE** visit from the pest controller. They will need to come back regularly to spray over a few weeks to eliminate each cycle as it reaches the moth stage.
2. You can do the same thing by purchasing a household insect bomb – a slow release insecticide – from your local supermarket. Use it in your storeroom overnight – it will act as a silent policeman.
3. Or purchase a household insect spray and use it whenever you see a moth. You do this at home with flies – the same principle applies here.
4. And purchase a household surface spray and spray onto pallets, edges, corners, and any crevice where a moth can lay an egg.
5. Every 4-6 weeks spray a new area with surface insect spray and restack all your popcorn there. Lightly spray over bags also. This shouldn't be too difficult a task if rotation of corn is a regular habit at the cinema.
6. If you see cocoons or caterpillars, simply pick them up or brush them down and destroy. The spray will not be very effective here.

C. WEEVILS:

This is normally the Saw Toothed Grain Beetle and looks like a mini rhinoceros. These eat the corn and they are hard to kill. Call SUPERPOP to exchange corn.

D: RING SUPERPOP PTY LTD / MOVIE TIME POPCORN FOR ADVICE

Melbourne (03) 9558 8000

Sydney (02) 9824 6444