

# Oktoberfest

and Pest Control for Brewers





## Oktoberfest and Pest Control for Brewers:

The original Oktoberfest was held in Munich, Germany in 1810 in honor of Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig's marriage to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hilburghausen. Beer and wine tastings, known as the tastings of traiteurs, gave local artisans the opportunity to sample their products before the King's court and visitors who attended the week-long celebration.

Throughout the years, the annual festivity in Munich has evolved. What began as a celebration of marriage has transformed into a worldwide revelry of Bavarian heritage in which 7 million people participate—consuming more than 6 million liters of Bavarian beer.

In D.C., Maryland, and Virginia many brewers feature German-style beer during their Oktoberfest celebrations. Restauranters serve traditional German fares such as pretzels, sausages, and roast chicken. And where there is food, beverage, and merriment, crowds will amass—as will pests.

Keeping undesirable vermin away from your Oktoberfest operations requires a strategic approach that anticipates each pest's next move and incorporates precautionary steps to reduce and eliminate their feeding and breeding options—before they start.

As a brewer, you know that keeping your brewery clean and properly storing your ingredients is a responsible component of pest prevention. You control the environment to your standards. However, when you host an Oktoberfest outdoors or at a new location, you lose the span of control over the environment your operations serve. New pest problems crop up unexpectedly in uncontrolled surroundings, putting your brew, food, and patrons at risk.

Three major pests with the greatest potential to wreak havoc on your Oktoberfest festivities are rodents, stinging insects, and flies. Keep reading to learn more about what you can expect and how to shun these troublesome pests.

# Oktoberfest and Rodents

## Rodent Issues

1. Rats and mice can chew through wood, metal, brick, sheetrock and other common building materials. They have a unique propensity to gnaw through cables, damage your equipment and cause electrical fires. A rat's incisors never stop growing, so the driving force behind their habitual gnawing is to maintain a manageable tooth length.
2. Rodents can contaminate stored brewing supplies like grain and hops by chewing through storage bags and containers of food product stored for your Oktoberfest events. Once inside, they ruin product by eating it or leaving droppings behind.
3. It can be challenging to keep up trash receptacles at a busy festival. But when containers full of waste don't get emptied frequently enough, they quickly become a buffet for rodents. Once rats or mice get into the bins, they can spread trash and spread disease-causing pathogens.
4. If patrons see rats or mice running amuck at your Oktoberfest, they may think this is how you handle rodent problems on the regular. And chances are they'll spread the word to their friends, or worse, on social media.



## Rodent Solutions

All rodents need food, water and shelter to survive. Making your brewery and your Oktoberfest inhabitable is your first step to keeping vermin out of your space and away from your product.

1. You and your employees no doubt work long hours during special events, as do rodents. When you consider your strategy for end-of-the-day cleanup, bear in mind that rats and mice are most active at night. You may need a fresh set of eyes to ensure spills, food debris, and garbage removal is handled thoroughly, ensuring effective rodent prevention out of your clean-up crew.
2. Place baited rodent traps in discreet areas behind equipment and along baseboards where rodents tend to be active. In outdoor venues, install tamper-resistant rodent bait stations or tamper-resistant trapping systems in advance and during your events. (If uncertain, your pest control professional can advise you on the best option for your unique needs).
3. Store any brewing ingredients like grain and hops in airtight containers that rodents can't chew through. And only keep on-hand as much grain as you need, preventing costly restocking if rodents or other pests gain access to your stored products. Store product ingredients and food items up off the ground.
4. Frequently empty trash receptacles and relocate bagged garbage to a secured dumpster away from your event. Promptly clean up any debris on the ground surrounding your trash receptacles.

# Oktoberfest and Stinging Insects

## Stinging Insect Issues

Stinging insects become persistent pests in late summer and fall when many plants are no longer flowering. Yellowjackets, paper wasps and hornets are forced from their nests to seek other sources of food when nectar supply is low. Events of all kinds can quickly become overrun by stinging insect pests when food and beverages are served or consumed outdoors.

1. Stinging insects begin their quest for sugary, human foods in late summer. What they don't get from fruit and late-flowering plants, they scavenge from outdoor events—quickly alerting other wasps to join in on the fray.

2. Yellowjackets and other stinging insects easily access indoor fests through doors and windows, and outdoor events are open season for all.

3. When wasps locate a human food source, they will pervasively hover and land on it, creating an annoying and dangerous situation for patrons and employees alike. Stinging insects—second only to farm animals in causing the most human fatalities per year—are a serious concern for those who are allergic. Yellowjackets alone are responsible for about half of all human insect stings.

## Stinging Insect Solutions

1. Keep wasps from harassing your guests by removing nests from the exterior. Yellowjackets nest in the ground, sometimes in vacant animal burrows or natural depressions. While they prefer to brood underground, they can also produce nests under eaves, in storage sheds and other voids. Paper wasps build umbrella-like nests among sheltered areas: under decks, eaves, or the tops of windows and doors. Use caulk or expanding foam to fill any holes, gaps, or cracks in your fest location.

2. Wasps enjoy sugary, high-protein foods and will go to great lengths to find a food source. Whenever possible, maintain trash receptacles (with tightly fitting lids) at least 20 feet from outdoor tasting and dining areas. Change the bags when they become full and don't allow rubbish or food scraps to accumulate on the ground around the receptacles. Decoys—stinging insect traps—can be purchased or installed to draw stinging insects away from your event.

3. Yellowjackets are very aggressive. If your patrons disturb a nest, they will angrily defend it. While it is challenging to prevent stinging insects from showing up at your event completely, consider hiring medical personnel to be on-hand, ideally with an epinephrine autoinjector (an EpiPen, for example) to prevent anaphylaxis.



# Oktoberfest and Flies

## Fly Issues

1. At an Oktoberfest, flies can become a significant nuisance around taps. Flies are attracted to beer first by its smell. Once they detect glycerol, a sweet-tasting bi-product of fermentation, it's not uncommon to find your taps and mats covered in flies.
2. Fruit flies are attracted to beer as well as organic matter like fruits and vegetables.
3. Bottle flies are also attracted to decomposing organic matter and can be an issue around indoor and outdoor restroom facilities.
4. Oktoberfests usually have long, communal tables where guests eat and drink for lengthy periods of time.

## Fly Solutions

1. Drain and clean mats and other surfaces frequently to keep beer from pooling. Also, surface-clean and sanitize taps regularly. After a fest, disassemble and thoroughly clean the tap system.
2. Keep garnish bins covered, wipe down taps, clean up spills and remove wet rags from your bar areas.
3. Clean up spills and food debris that collects on tables and the ground below.
4. Use enzymatic cleaning solutions to cleans floors and drains where organic material might accumulate. They break down the organic matter and prevent fruit flies from accumulating.
5. Make sure restrooms facilities are kept clean and sanitary through your Oktoberfest. Regularly clean restroom surfaces and empty trash receptacles.



# Oktoberfest Pest Control Tips



Maintain trash receptacles with tightly fitting lids and replace the bags when they become full. Removing garbage from the ground surrounding trash cans quickly. When removing a full bag, be sure to relocate it to a dumpster that is away from the event.



Quickly clean up any spills and food debris from the tables and ground below. Any areas that collect organic material should be cleaned regularly with enzymatic cleaning solutions.



Remove any nests surrounding the event area. Yellowjacket nests that are often found in ground voids and should be filled. Make sure that medical personnel at the event have EpiPen injectors in case a guest who is allergic to stinging insects is stung and you need to prevent anaphylaxis.



Store any brewing ingredients like grains and hops in airtight containers. Also be sure to keep garnish bins for limes and lemons covered and clean of any spills.

# The American Pest Solution



American Pest uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to meet the pest control needs a brewery has when hosting an Oktoberfest celebration. Our staff of entomologists and high-trained Service Professionals employ a thorough, integrated approach to pest management that focuses on evaluation, follow-up, and documentation. We rely on inspection and species identification, sanitation and exclusion, environment modification, targeted treatments (based on findings), and continuous monitoring to eradicate pests and keep them out.

We also offer customized solutions for businesses seeking sustainable solutions. Our LEED pest control services address pest biology, building structure and sanitation deficiencies, cultural peculiarities and environmental factors to eliminate pests with little to no pesticide use. This green approach to pest control provides the least impact on the environment and non-target organisms.

## **Brewers should expect the following from a reputable pest management company:**

- Routine inspections, consultation, evaluation of pest harborages and customized solutions
- Pest trending analysis, continuous monitoring, species identification
- Consultation on sanitation and environment modifications
- Assistance addressing attractants and entry points
- Safe, effective, targeted pest treatments by species
- Digital inspection reports, pest findings, threshold alerts, and area conditions
- Assistance with educational efforts



Minimizing lost revenue, protecting your image and providing you with an expert team of on-call pest control professionals are among the reasons our clients choose American Pest to protect their brands.



# Call Us Today for a Free Inspection and Consultation.

**(855)212-3677**

American Pest is a modern pest control company with a team of more than 160 pest prevention experts. We vredit our longstanding tradition of excellence to our people, who provide quality pest control solutions to over 12,000 homes and businesses and millions of square feet of federal offices and institutions throughout Washington D.c., Maryland and Northern Virginia.



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