

## |CEPA|

**COCKROACHES**

AT THE FOODBANK



**Foodbanks are sensitive places where people will have to turn in their hour of need. With many vulnerable people relying on foodbanks, threats to the storage of produce there must be taken very seriously.**

**With no previous history of cockroaches, the staff at one UK food bank were horrified to discover an infestation of German cockroaches (*Blattella germanica*) on their premises, threatening their precious donated stock.**

Pest managers were called out as this public health pest presented a risk to a vital food supply. The site did not have a history of cockroach infestation, so the pest manager concluded that these must have been brought in from an external charitable donation. A sizeable population of the cockroaches were then able to establish themselves on the site due to the site's lack of previous pest management awareness or measures in place to monitor for pests.

The solution had to be found, fast. Using an Integrated Pest Management approach, the pest manager began by looking at logistical solutions. They advised the foodbank to establish a quarantine area for all incoming future goods, in order to block the cockroaches' food source. They advised the foodbank to contact all suppliers to request that the food banks are protected by trained professional pest managers. The aim was to prevent the reoccurrence of the problem at its source. Once the issue of re-infestation had been addressed, the next step was to eliminate the current infestation, which had been running a vital food source for many homes dry. Thanks to their knowledge of biology and biocides (the life cycle of the German cockroaches and the characteristics of biocide control options), they implemented a control program that was designed specifically for this situation.



*“The first step was the spray application of a suitable insecticide, followed by the targeted placement of cockroach bait.”*

After 28 days the problem was brought under control.

To prevent further outbreaks, it was important to ensure ongoing preventative measures were established by the foodbank, avoiding the need for further spray solutions. Following the initial treatment, a regular pest management program was put in place with monitoring stations and visual inspections.



*“Bounty Pest Control also provided the foodbank staff with a pest awareness training program to ensure that the early signs of infestations are caught by those on the premises daily.”*

After the initial spray, the site reported a significant reduction in activity. By following the initial treatment with the application of gel bait, any immature cockroaches from subsequent egg hatching were also controlled. With the staff on site taking the recommended preventative actions and regular visits from trained professional pest management technicians, the implementation of Integrated Pest Management principles is protecting this vital food distribution network, and has removed a threat to public health.

## #TheGoodPestManager@Work

This series of fact sheets showcases sustainable pest management products and practices. They provide snapshots of the good pest manager at work.

From vector mapping via innovative software to digital rodent traps and heat treatments, pest management is a unique and multi-faceted service sector that helps secure hygiene and by so-doing contributes significantly to public health. It is increasingly important today in dealing with the effects of climate change which are resulting in a growing incidence of plagues of insects and rodents.

These case studies capture the essence of the thought leadership and business acumen of this service sector, not only through the digitalisation of services but equally through a concern to respect and take care of the environments where infestations occur. In all instances presented, innovation is at the core of these sustainable business practices.

CEPA is proud to champion innovative and sustainable pest management practices that can be used on the ground. It is what we call #TheGoodPestManager. Professional pest management is a service sector that does not receive broad recognition or visibility. We hope these illustrative examples will shed light on the way we operate to prevent and deal with pest infestation and the value we bring to society on a daily basis.



### ABOUT CEPA

Founded in 1974, CEPA, the European pest management services trade association brings together more than 70 national associations and companies along the whole pest management chain in 23 European countries.

CEPA represents primarily the European pest management service sector, which at its core is a network of European SMEs with substantial economic growth potential. Our mission as a service sector is to contribute to the protection and assurance of the wellbeing of EU citizens especially in the context of smart, sustainable, healthy cities.

We work with a broad range of actors at local level from manufacturers to the catering sector, from hospitals to schools and other educational establishments, from retailers to public authorities, from a wide range of businesses to political institutions at all levels.

Against a backdrop of climate change increasing the presence of pests in urban environments, the sound management of overpopulated cities has never been more critical. Our sector of the service industry is leading the charge in assuring tangible, sustainable solutions for the well-being of Europe's citizens.

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