



Technical Bulletin

Setting the Standard for Food Safety and Pest Management Solutions

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Introduction to Giardia



Photo Courtesy of: www.cdc.gov/

Giardia is a microscopic parasite that causes the diarrheal illness known as giardiasis. Giardia (also known as *Giardia intestinalis*, *Giardia lamblia*, or *Giardia duodenalis*) is found on surfaces or in soil, food, or water that has been contaminated with feces (poop) from infected humans or animals.

Giardia is protected by an outer shell that allows it to survive outside the body for long periods of time and makes it tolerant to chlorine disinfection, the most common used in produce. While the parasite can be spread in different ways, water (drinking water and recreational water) is the most common

mode of transmission.

Giardiasis is the most frequently diagnosed intestinal parasitic disease in the United States and among travelers with chronic diarrhea. Signs and symptoms may vary and can last for 1 to 2 weeks or longer. In some cases, people infected with Giardia have no symptoms. In children, severe giardiasis might delay physical and mental growth, slow development, and cause malnutrition.

More information can be found at: www.CDC.gov

Submitted by: Rich Gibson, ACE, CHA

The Camel Cricket



Photo Courtesy of: www.yourwildlife.org

Class: Insecta **Order:** Orthoptera **Family:** Rhaphidophorida **Genus:** Ceuthophilus

Camel crickets get their common name from their humpbacked appearance, which is similar to that of a camel. Also commonly known as cave crickets or spider crickets, this species can be found in caves, as well as damp, cool areas underneath damp leaves, stones and rotting logs. They are widespread in the United States and in the world, and have a lifespan of about one to two years. Camel crickets do not possess sound producing organs, and therefore do not chirp.

Additionally, the adults do not have wings, unlike other cricket species.

Using their long limbs, camel crickets leap when they are frightened since it's the only defense mechanism, they have to scare off predators.

Camel crickets are considered occasional invaders. If they are seen indoors there is most likely an exclusion concern and the area should be inspected for gaps, cracks, and crevices. Exclusion is easy using non-chemical methods such as caulk, foam or weather stripping. There is often not a need for chemical application for cricket control however, the application of a residual insecticide is often effective. Other non-chemical methods of control include the use of glue boards.

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What's That Smell?



While performing a monthly process audit with a client, a foul odor was detected in the mixing area of the large-scale commercial bakery. The odor was distinct and anyone who knows baking, knows the smell of fermentation.

One of the processing steps of this bakery is the making of a poolish, a fairly wet sponge made of water, flour and yeast and used as a starter for bread products. The poolish tank at this location had a steady trickle of byproduct dripping directly into the floor drain nearby. The solids from the poolish drain had accumulated in the elbow at the drain and continued to ferment with no water or other

flush to reduce the risk of pest attraction. After some time, the fruit flies showed up and the facility's team could no longer ignore the odor, or flying insects.

An informal meeting was held at the location of the drain (shown in the picture above) and the best way to handle the issue was discussed, while swatting fruit flies out of their faces. It was initially discussed that the drain would be flushed several times a shift using hot water. After a few days, it did not seem to reduce the activity to acceptable levels and the focus shift from rinsing to cleaning so the drain was foamed using a chlorinated cleaner and then flushing daily. Still, the desired results were not achieved so the sanitation chemical representative was contacted and a plan was enacted to install an automated dispenser to periodically dispense a light caustic cleaner into the drain and have a steady stream of water flowing through a small 1/4" line. This worked wonders. The odor dissipated, as did the fruit flies, and the mixing area was fresh and clean once again.

Odors in a bakery not only lead to pest activity they can also lead to off flavors in the baked products as bread products readily absorb odors and can lead to customer complaints. While there is typically no food safety risk it is a quality concern

Take Away Tips:

- Find the attraction and eliminate it
- Sanitation is the best pest control method
- Follow your nose
- Ask for help

Submitted by: Rich Gibson, ACE, CHA