



PEST MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR GREEN ROOFS

Green roofs are a growing trend in cities across the country. As sustainable construction continues to progress, understanding the pest control implications of vegetative roof systems will be key.

Here are a few tips to help minimize pest threats on green roofs:

KNOW WHICH PESTS ARE A THREAT

The most common green roof pests are:

- **Rodents** (particularly rats) – Look for burrows or damage to plantings
- **Plant feeding insects** – Look for caterpillars, aphids or beetles on stems and leaves
- **Birds** (including sparrows and pigeons) – Look for perching birds, droppings or nests
- **Stinging insects** (including hornets and wasps) – Attracted by flowers and water features
- **Ants** – Many species are attracted by “honeydew sap” produced by plant feeding insects like aphids

UNDERSTAND THE RISKS PESTS POSE

A pest infestation on your roof can:

- **Cause structural issues**, including damage to surfaces caused by corrosive bird droppings
- **Spread** to other areas of your building through gaps around doors, pipes and fixtures
- **Alarm occupants** by their presence and actions – no one wants rats on their roof
- **Be a health hazard** – birds and rodents can transmit disease and stinging insects can cause serious allergic reactions

USE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

To proactively help prevent pests, work with a pest management professional to:

- **Routinely monitor** for pests by inspecting plantings, dining areas and fixtures
- **Minimize water accumulations** from leaky taps, AC units or irrigation
- **Reduce heavy mulch cover** on planters and ivy overgrowth
- **Seal gaps** around doors, pipes and fixtures
- **Empty trash receptacles regularly** and keep tightly sealed lids on these containers at all times
- **Repair missing or torn vent screens**

