



# Pineapple Storage

## A “SAFE AND SECURE” PLACE

### PEST MAINTENANCE

#### Specific Threats for Self-Storage

Certain types of pests are more likely to infest self-storage units and should be given special consideration.

**Rodents and mice** are a leading concern in this type of environment because they're great stowaways, reproduce quickly and can fit through extremely tiny openings. In fact, a female house mouse—one of the most common rodent invaders—can give birth to up to a dozen babies every three weeks.

Once inside a unit, rodents can cause severe damage in a short amount of time. These pests will eat and gnaw at just about anything including cardboard, furniture, bedding, wiring and even decaying material. In addition, one mouse produces between 40 and 100 fecal droppings per day, which can accumulate quickly and become a health concern.

**Cockroaches** are also great stowaways, especially in cardboard boxes. They can squeeze through cracks as thin as a quarter, and they reproduce quickly. Cockroaches are extremely hardy, making it easy for them to survive for long stretches. In fact, they can live for a month without food.

Cockroaches also spread disease and can contaminate the items they touch or travel across. They are reported to spread at least 33 kinds of bacteria, six types of parasitic worms and at least seven other kinds of human pathogens. They pick up germs on the spines of their legs and bodies as they crawl through decaying matter or sewage, and then carry these onto other items. Studies suggest that cockroach droppings and skins can trigger asthma and allergies, especially in children, so infested items that are returned from storage to homes could pose a risk.

#### Top Items That Attract Rodents and Insects

Rodents can smell food a mile away, so keep anything edible, even edible decorations like that macaroni and cheese craft, out of your storage unit. [Holiday storage](#) can be especially enticing to rodents. Some holiday decorations are made of cookies and candy canes. You may receive 50 tins of popcorn during the holidays and just toss them in your self storage unit. Bad idea! Rats, mice and insects will be attracted to the scents of these foods so it is best to avoid putting this items in your storage unit.

Anything highly scented is also bait for rodents, including candles, potpourri, and highly perfumed toiletries such as deodorant. You should not store holiday candles that smell of cinnamon, spice, maple, etc. Cosmetics, perfumes, and liquor should also be kept somewhere else. All of these items have strong scents that bring rodents quickly. Even living plants sometimes attract mice and other small creatures, so these should not be stored in a unit.

#### Keeping the Unit Clean

You may think since you're not storing any of these items (or boxes these items once came in) you are safe from rodents. That may not be true. Your grandmother's couch, your old armchair, or your sticky coffee table could contain food remnants, crumbs, scraps, or liquids that attract vermin to feed. Before you load up your furniture for storage, check each piece carefully. Clean furniture from top to bottom, and use a mini hand vacuum or a vacuum cleaner with attachments to reach into couch and chair crevices and get crumbs.

Polish any food or drink residue off of end tables or coffee tables with furniture polish, and go over leather furniture with cleaner, too. Spilled liquids that dry on leather or wood may not be wholly visible to your eye, but they smell pretty fragrant to a rat, mouse, or insect. Storing clean items in clean boxes ensures you're free from vermin.

#### Pest-Proofing Tips to Share With Customers

- Store items in plastic, sealed containers rather than cardboard boxes to prevent pests like rodents from nesting inside.
- Clean all items you plan on storing prior to packing. Remove any residue from clothing and furniture, and do not leave crumbs or food remnants inside kitchen appliances.
- Wash items like clothing and linens at a hot temperature before storing to eliminate pests or pest eggs.
- Don't store perishable food items or live plants inside storage units, as these items attract pests.
- Before placing items into your unit, thoroughly inspect them to ensure pests are not hiding in any boxes or items.
- Store boxes on a raised pallet to prevent smaller pests from finding refuge underneath.
- Regularly clean of your storage and check for signs of pests.
- If you notice signs of an infestation, contact the facility manager immediately and work with him to eliminate the invasion promptly.

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