



UNIT 3

TOPIC – 6

Infestations in material handling can be a significant concern as they can lead to damage, contamination, and safety issues. Common sources of infestation in material handling include:

1. **Pallets and Wooden Crates:** Wooden pallets and crates are susceptible to infestations by pests such as termites, ants, and wood-boring insects. These pests can weaken the structural integrity of the pallets and crates, making them less suitable for handling and storage.
2. **Cardboard Boxes:** Cardboard boxes are often used for packaging and storage. They can attract pests like roaches and rodents, which may find shelter or food remnants in the boxes. These pests can damage the contents and spread throughout the warehouse.
3. **Food and Perishable Items:** If your material handling involves food products or perishable items, there is a risk of infestation by insects or rodents. Proper storage and handling of these items are crucial to prevent infestations.
4. **Storage Areas:** Dark, undisturbed areas in warehouses or storage facilities can become breeding grounds for pests. Insufficient lighting and inadequate cleaning in these areas can lead to infestations over time.
5. **Shipping Containers:** Shipping containers, especially those used for international transportation, can carry pests from one location to another. It's important to inspect and clean containers before using them for material handling.
6. **Outdoor Storage:** Materials stored outdoors are vulnerable to infestations by various pests, including birds, insects, and rodents. Proper protection and maintenance are essential to prevent infestations in outdoor storage areas.
7. **Improper Sealing:** If storage containers or handling equipment have gaps, cracks, or openings, it can provide easy access for pests. Ensuring that containers and equipment are properly sealed can help prevent infestations.
8. **Inadequate Pest Control Measures:** Lack of proactive pest control measures, such as regular inspections, pest monitoring, and the use of traps or baits, can contribute to infestations in material handling areas.
9. **Environmental Factors:** Environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity can also influence infestations. Some pests thrive in specific environmental conditions, so controlling these factors can help prevent infestations.
10. **Hygiene Practices:** Poor hygiene practices among workers can lead to the attraction of pests. For example, leaving food debris or not properly disposing of trash can encourage pest infestations.

To prevent infestations in material handling, it's essential to implement a comprehensive pest



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management plan that includes regular inspections, proper sanitation, sealing of storage containers, and the use of pest control measures when necessary. Additionally, training staff on pest awareness and prevention can also be effective in maintaining a pest-free environment.