



**Ministry of Industry  
Investment & Commerce**

Jamaica's **Business** Ministry



**Food Storage and Prevention  
of Infestation Division**  
Ensuring Safety and Wholesomeness

# **FOOD STORAGE**

## **Questions and Answers**

***What does the term “infestation” mean?***

“Infestation” means the presence of rodents, insects, mites or fungi in numbers or under conditions which pose a potential immediate risk of damage or loss of food

***Are cats allowed to be used to control rats and mice in food establishments?***

No, cats are not an acceptable means of deterring or controlling rats or mice. Animals are not allowed in food handling establishment, keep animals out to prevent contamination of food.

***May food be stored on the floor?***

If the container is waterproof then food may be stored on the floor. If not, food must be stored on pallets raised 10 cm off the ground.

***If there is a space constraint may food be stacked against walls?***

No, food must be stacked clear of all walls by at the least 60cm. This is to allow for: (i) proper cleaning; (ii) proper inspection and (iii) prevention of contamination.

***What are the building requirements for the proper storage of food?***

Food must be kept in premises of sound construction, to prevent the access of pest. Roofs must be weatherproof and the floor impermeable. Walls must be smooth, light in colour, free from cracks and crevices and cleaned regularly. All openings for ventilation must be covered with mosquito meshing.

***Is it advisable to use rodent baits in food areas?***

No. rodent baits/ rodenticides must only be applied outside or exterior of food establishments. Make use of rodent bait stations when using the chemical.