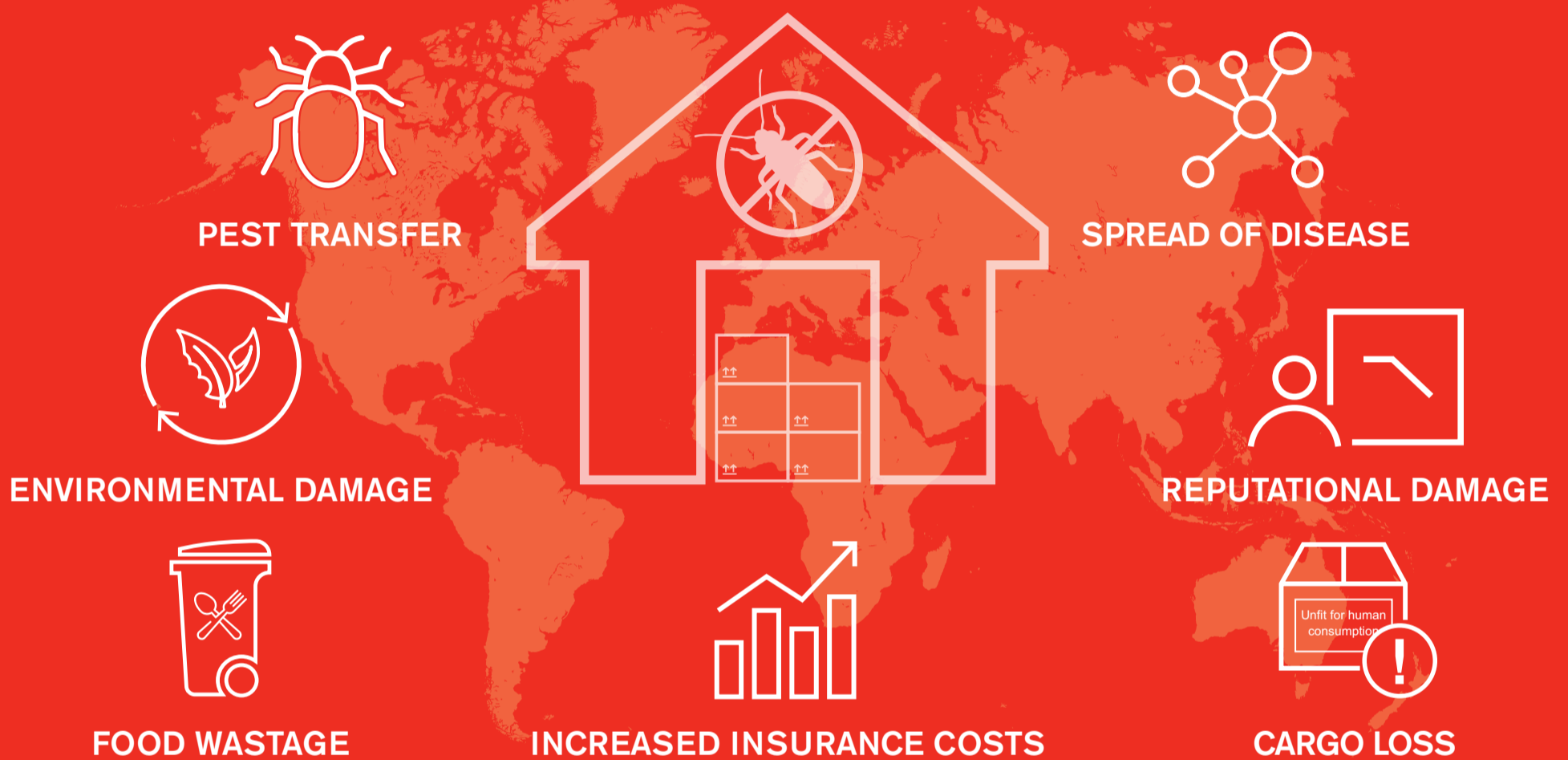


Pest control - in warehousing

Managing the risk of pests during storage of goods

When pests infiltrate the supply chain, there can be serious consequences for producers, shippers, vendors and consumers.

What are the risks?



How can you mitigate these risks?

ESTABLISH A PEST CONTROL PROGRAMME

- Seal any cracks and gaps in your warehouse walls, ceilings and close all doors when not in use
- Maintain robust sanitation procedures and clean any debris straightaway
- Dispose of food waste in secure industrial bins designed to prevent infestation
- Maintain records of inspections and corrective actions, aiding future prevention
- Avoid storing products with damaged packaging indoors where practicable
- Watch for signs of infestation such as droppings or nesting materials and encourage prompt reporting
- Provide regular workforce training
- Promote the importance of hygiene and handwashing

PACKING

- Ensure goods are protected from moisture, light, pests and physical damage

- Avoid loading outside at night under bright lights
- Consider using heat treated or chemically treated wooden pallets. Be aware that this is a requirement for some international cargo

STORAGE GOOD PRACTICE

- Undertake regular visual inspections
- Ensure inventory management is in place with regard to batch numbers and best by dates
- Carefully manage inventory with regard to batch numbers, any expiry dates and where expected dwell time is exceeded
- Don't accept old or expired stock for storage
- Avoid storing old or expired stock/products
- Where possible, store food products in sealed containers, off the floor and away from walls
- Reduce the risk of food spoiling by ensuring that storage humidity or temperatures are appropriate
- Use traps to detect and monitor pest activity

PREPARING FOR TRANSPORT

- Ensure that the cargo transport unit (CTU), including dunnage, is clean both inside and out before loading the goods - mud and vegetation harbour invasive pests <https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/video-library/invasive-pests-unit-and-cargo-cleanliness/>
- If pests are discovered, take action, where appropriate report to the relevant national authority
- Consider placing netting over vents to prevent pests entering
- Before unpacking goods, check for signs of pests to prevent bringing them into your storage area

WATCH OUT FOR RED FLAGS

- Don't underestimate the potential damage that can be caused through pest contamination. Ensure that any traces of pest presence are notified and escalated as appropriate

