

 West Lothian Council	Environmental Health		SUBJECT: INSECT PROOF SCREENING FOR DOORS AND WINDOWS
	✓	Food Safety/Food Hygiene	NUMBER: FH03
Revised: 29/06/15		Health & Safety	
		Public Health	KEYWORDS: INSECT PROOFING
Status: TRADE ADVICE Data label: Public		Pollution Control	
		Pest Control/Dog Warden	

Information Sheet FH03

Insect-proof Screening for Doors and Windows

Introduction

Insects carry dirt and bacteria which can cause food poisoning. Their bodies, webbing and excrement contaminate and spoil large amounts of food. Insects of all types must be kept away from food.

A common way for insect to get into food areas is through open doors and windows. This can be prevented by using insect proof screens, but they must be of the right type and installed properly.

Legal Requirements

The Food Hygiene Regulations say that openings such as doors and windows in rooms where open food is prepared must be screened if they could let insects in. This is normally only applied to doors and windows which are routinely left open for access or ventilation – so not all openings need screens, only those which cause a problem by letting insects in.

The legal requirement does not apply to dining areas – though it may still be a good idea.

Guidance

There are many different types and systems available for insect proof screening. Some work better than others, and prices vary widely, so it pays to shop around. Look in the Yellow Pages, trade directories or online. We recommend using a reputable company who can show good experience in this specialist work. Ask if they can supply details of other satisfied customers in your area.

There are even DIY kits available, but these are often of a lower quality and may not do the job as well or last as long as a professionally installed system.

Whatever style you opt for it must be made of suitable materials, and installed in such a way that it can be thoroughly cleaned.

Further help

If you want to discuss this in more detail, or if you need any further help or information, then please contact us on 01506 280000 or email environmentalhealth.gov.uk and we will try to help. National companies usually have local agents who do the work for them. We do not recommend any particular company, and there may be other suppliers in the area that we are not aware of.