

# Bugs in Food

It's definitely not pleasant to find a bug squirming around in your food! Whether it is a caterpillar in your salad or weevils in your flour - it's not ideal!

## Biosecurity Threats

Some bugs and insects found in our food can potentially be a biosecurity threat to our economy and the environment. Pests can hitch a ride into New Zealand via food or storage crates and containers. Under the Biosecurity Act, New Zealanders are legally obliged to report notifiable organisms such as the Queensland fruit fly and the brown marmorated stink bug.

## Waiter, there's a fly in my soup?

If you are dining out and notice an insect in your meal hopefully it is a one-off incident, but it could be an indication of an infestation at the food premise.

Local Councils carry out site visits and inspections of food premises and will look for any signs of insect infestation and assess risk factors. The Council's food inspection officers are able to issue warning notices and carry out follow-up inspections.



## What to look out for

- Rinse your fruit and vegetables under running cold water prior to cooking and eating
- Check your pantry for signs of insects - spiderwebs, ants, moths etc and clean up any crumbs or mess on the shelves.
- Use sealed storage containers to store dry goods.
- Some insect infestations can be very tricky to get rid of. One example is the pantry moth and their larvae - which feed on dry goods such as flour and rice. Take a look at our blog on pantry moths for more information: <https://foodtruths.org/blog/how-get-rid-pesky-pantry-moths>
- If you find an insect that you cannot recognise, catch it (if it is safe), take a photo and call Biosecurity New Zealand's pest and diseases hotline on 0800 80 99 66.

Have you found insects or bugs in your food? Tell us at [FoodTruths.org](https://www.foodtruths.org). We can provide information and assist you with your report. [www.foodtruths.org](https://www.foodtruths.org)

Additional Resources:

Biosecurity NZ: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/>