

Barcoding of Pest Control Units.



Types Of Barcode

PestFriend uses the original simple (1 Dimension) barcodes that you see in shops and on products. A simple barcode is used as an identity link to a database containing details. Initially it allowed a shop to hold a price for its stock which differs from a competitor. The barcode is useless to anyone, without access to the database. 1D barcodes have been in use for nearly 40 years, showing that they are very tolerant to being used under adverse conditions for many years.

The more recent 2D or QR type barcode were designed to hold information without reference to a database. For example a train ticket QR code could hold information about price paid, date valid on, start point, destination, special conditions, seat reservation and any discounts applied.



In the Pest Control industry, unless a QR code is restricted to just an ID number (as used in 1D barcodes), it can provide all your information on the barcode to your competitors. Just imagine the commercial advantage that could give a competitor after all your hard work in setting up a site. Using a mobile phone to read QR codes in unpleasant surroundings and then using for a phone call may not be very appealing.

With QR codes, data is packed into a smaller space which is coded both horizontally and vertically increasing the opportunity of a read failure through damage or ageing.

Barcoding bait boxes helps reduce the time spent on site, proving all units were inspected, while units and areas inspected are recorded. The information can be supplemented with additional values taken from a book of standard barcodes, like the take on a bait box, pests found in an insect detector or add a count value to a unit and then display the information on a barcode report linked to the Site Report.



Missing bait boxes can be recorded from recorded bar codes held on a keyring or in a small booklet. Download sample barcodes

PestFriend will handle jobs where just proof of entry / exit is required, right through to comprehensive monitoring of every pest control device.

The System's labels fit within traditional Pest Control devices in the location normally used for a date checked label. Using barcodes removes the need to record the inspection on the station itself as the "checked" data is recorded on a report insect detector showing all units checked. Barcodes are unique to a Pest Control company as the only reference to what the code represents is in a table held on your Office and Mobile machines.

Barcode checking is achieved via a small battery powered hand held unit (see photograph above), it is very easy to use can read codes from a distance and at varying angles. Records inspection of a unit in a restricted space is easier than using conventional date record labels in the unit. The scanner includes a "delete" feature for when a code is scanned in error. When all the codes have been scanned, the unit is reconnected to the Mobile PC which recharges the batteries and downloads the codes recorded.

Barcode Report download example

Barcoding Production

Barcodes can be introduced via the Office machine and printed on labels which fit inside pest control units or can be at key points on site (inside a door jamb making it nearly invisible to the average site visitor). Barcodes in key areas provides proof that an area has been inspected whilst barcoded devices prove that they have been opened whereas with conventional methods, it was never be certain that an inspection has been carried out as they are unable to view the record label inside.

The report shows the codes in the order read. Headings are shown for key units plus a summary of what has been found for the unit. Start and end times of a visit gives a clear indication of progress through the site. Creating the Barcode Report will update a checkbox on the main Site Report as a cross reference.

On the example report progress round the site has been recorded with entry and exit records. For the Insect Detector a series of results have been added from the list of standard codes by first scanning the code for the pest then the code for the count value.

PestFriend includes a series of Audit Reports which compare what should be checked on a site with what has actually be scanned on a visit. The example report shown on this page shows four units which could not be checked due to building work. This allows the technician to record the reason (if applicable) or go back and scan the unit if it has just been missed. Barcode Unit scanned Report Here

Missing Bar Codes

Missing Pest Control units are highlighted by barcodes labels being fixed to walls, other secure points or on a site plan. These reflect the units identity proving the location has been checked. Actions for missing units can be recorded using the book of standard barcodes (missing box replaced).

Labels contains limited text information about the Pest Control Company, Site unit and location they are to be attached to. The barcode links to the full information on PestFriend which can be used in producing readable reports for your customer.

The inclusion of a time stamp for each barcode read gives a positive record of the time spent on site and the inspection of each device. It can be used with the customer in highlighting repeat difficulties of reaching or finding pest control devices.

Advantages

Variations in the way barcodes are used by our customers include:-

Recording quantity, type of poison used.

Working in low light conditions - scanning codes is easier than writing notes.

Providing proof that a difficult / unpleasant area has been inspected.

Triggering a "charging" process for missing pest control devices.

Using more than one barcode reader to cover larger sites.

Benefits

Bar coding abolishes the hand written notes, creating a standard professional report for your customer clearly stating entry to site, action while there and exit from the premises. Their clarity is liked by EHO's

Saving to History allows trends and problems to be identified. It can be offered as a Premium Service to your Customers who want more than a standard job.