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ALMOST SUMMER BREAK!

Time to batten down the hatches...



Summer break is just around the corner, but unfortunately pests won't be taking any time off! To avoid pest outbreaks over the summer, use this time as an opportunity to pest-proof your work space. Be it a classroom, desk, custodial closet, or kitchen, *we can all* do a few things to minimize pests in our workspace as we prepare for summertime...

Administrators

1. Let your staff know you're on board with the IPM effort. Share this pest press, or circulate a memo with this information (electronic copies available at <http://ag.arizona.edu/urbanipm/>). Implementing these measures will improve your school building's structural integrity, make for a cleaner school, and create a healthier learning environment.
2. Facilities managers: make sure there is a plan in place for garbage and recycling over the summer. If there is a cut-off date beyond which classroom garbage and recycling will not be collected, make sure you inform teachers. Infrequent trash collection schedules can generate serious pest problems.
3. Principals: request that staff responsible for the Lost & Found appropriate the items and clear the area out; cockroaches, mice, and several other pests are commonly found among neglected Lost & Found things.

Teachers

You all do an amazing job teaching with limited resources and time; but unfortunately, classrooms and teacher's lounges are among the most pest-prone. Bugs LOVE all things "teacher"! Lounges are high-use areas that have minimal accountability. Classrooms often have significant space limitations resulting in clutter. **Fortunately, pest management is NOT another job for you; rather, it overlaps with what you're already doing!**

1. Classroom garbage and recycling may not be emptied regularly over the summer. Next time you see your custodian or principal, ask when the last date your classroom recycling and trash will be emptied. Overflowing classroom garbage and recycling mid-way through summer will attract flies, cockroaches, etc., who will readily greet you upon your return in August.
2. Report leaky faucets and any watermarks in ceilings and walls to maintenance. Water is rare in the desert, and pests will flock to leaks.
3. If you have art supplies that dub as food items (macaroni,

popcorn kernels, beans, etc.) store them in plastic or glass containers with tightly sealed lids...or better yet, discard them altogether.

4. Dry food, snacks, etc. should not be left in the classroom. Take them home, throw them out, or store them in tightly sealed containers in a cached location with those of other staff; if a pest outbreak *does* occur, at least it will be isolated to one area!

5. Use this as an opportunity to GET RID OF CORRUGATED CARDBOARD. When you're reorganizing your supplies, put your stored items into plastic bins with snap-on lids instead of cardboard. Cockroaches are transported inside the corrugations of cardboard boxes. Both roaches and crickets may feed on box materials.

6. Remember to take classroom plants home with you. If left, they could serve as harborage or food for pests (the same is true for classroom animals and food).

7. Use this time of year as an opportunity to get rid of the clutter that has accumulated over the past months (or years). Clutter is one of the main attractants for classroom pests. If you're already reorganizing and the item hasn't been used in 2 years, consider tossing it instead of storing it. If you find pesticides, make sure you dispose of them (appropriately).

8. Teacher's lounge: open the refrigerator and take a good long look at every item – did you bring it? Was it so long ago you can't remember? Don't hesitate, toss it!

Refrigerators need to be empty at the end of the year. Cockroaches live quite contentedly in the



seals of refrigerator and microwave doors, so give these appliances a quick wipe down regularly. To increase accountability, think about drawing up a schedule for keeping these appliances wiped down and pest-free.

Custodians

1. Report leaky faucets, wet spots, or water damage in ceilings and walls (indoors and outside). Water is highly sought after by critters in our desert environment.
2. Hang mops and brooms head up; this can be done easily if you put up wall-mounted racks. Ants, crickets, and roaches will feed on the organic residue built up in mops and brooms. Flies, spiders and cockroaches will breed, feed, and take shelter in mop and broom heads resting on the floor.
3. Make sure all trash and recycling is removed from

classrooms. All trash contains something pests want, so don't make it easy for them and they won't hang around.

4. Arrange for you or other designated staff to flush all toilets and run water in all drains (including floor drains in kitchen area) at least every two weeks. This is well worth the effort! It keeps the P-traps from drying up, and American cockroaches from gaining access inside via the drains. *A building-wide infestation of roaches could be the result of not performing this simple yet effective action regularly.*

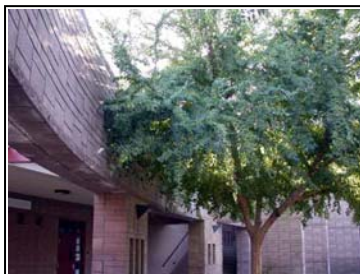
IPM Specialists

1. Share this pest press with school staff, especially school principals. Make hardcopies and keep a portable file with you for sharing. If the school staff does their part, your job of managing pests can be done much more efficiently.

Grounds Crew

Do a walk around the premises to see what should be worked on. Allow yourself to take note of things you're normally too busy (or unable with students present) to notice.

1. Irrigation/drip lines to plants no longer there and sprinkler heads that are too large for the job will waste water and create mosquito habitat by allowing water to pool.



2. Prune trees away from buildings. Overhanging trees allow pests (especially bark scorpions) access into buildings. Hedges and other ground plants should be pruned path-width away from a building.

Kitchen staff

1. Before you head out for the summer, make sure there is as little corrugated cardboard as possible in the kitchen and pantry area. Kitchens commonly have food items delivered in corrugated cardboard, and typically they are immediately removed and shelved, or rotated out. Adult and immature German cockroaches can be found in the corrugation columns and are brought into schools this way.

2. Kitchen managers: check to make sure the kitchen floor will receive a thorough spray-washing to remove grease and dirt build-up – **especially in corners and under appliances!!** These dark and hard-to-reach areas are where the worst food and grease build-up occurs, and pests LOVE it there. This should be done on a monthly basis, but at the minimum twice each school year.

Students

1. Older students will typically clean out their lockers, whereas younger ones may have things stored and tucked away in cubbies, desks, etc. throughout a classroom. Make the teacher's and custodian's jobs easier by removing clutter and any stored food from these locations.

Arizona Children's Environmental Health Program



Congratulations to Mesa Public Schools for earning IPM STAR® Certification. This prestigious award is earned by passing a rigorous and strict IPM inspection by the IPM Institute of North

America, Inc. Ed Stallard, District IPM Specialist, has demonstrated outstanding dedication to Mesa Public School District's IPM efforts, and reports that school staff are embracing their role in the program.



Ed Stallard, Mesa Public School Dist. IPM Specialist

Ecolab, the district's pest management company, has provided IPM services of unprecedented quality to this school district since the district adopted the program in 2004. Ecolab's dedication to providing quality IPM services is as an example to the pest management industry nationwide. Congratulations Mesa Public Schools!!!

If your work incorporates IPM methods and you have not already RSVP'd for the June 6, 2006 **Arizona Pest Management Center Summit**, please contact Dawn H. Gouge, 520-381-2223, dhgouge@ag.arizona.edu. This one-day, interactive workshop will identify Arizona's pest management research and education priorities in **urban environments** as well as agriculture, rangelands, and natural areas. A break-out session focusing on school IPM will also occur. This is an exciting opportunity for pest management professionals, industry, state agency representatives and organizations to network and lend **your voice** to a broad scope of pest management (and pest-related public health) issues in Arizona. The forum will be catered with a continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon desert.

Information sources:

1. National IPM Implementation Team, Monroe IPM Model.
2. Arizona Children's Environmental Health Coalition members Ed Stallard (Mesa Public Schools) and Anthony Scarfo (Phoenix Union High School District).

For information on Arizona's IPM in Schools program contact Dawn Gouge or Jennifer Snyder 520-568-2273, dhgouge@ag.arizona.edu



Few bugs are bad! More than 95% of all insect species are beneficial to humans