

IN THIS ISSUE:

*PEST PROOF
FOR SUMMER BREAK!*



Summer break is upon us, and unfortunately pests don't take vacations. In fact, with the warmth and moisture of monsoon season there will be a spike in insects, arachnids and other potential pests. To avoid outbreaks in your classroom, kitchen, or school office this summer, follow these simple pest-proofing guidelines for your space. Your school's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program works when everyone embraces their unique role...

Administrators

1. Inform your staff that you support the IPM approach to managing pests – which means. 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 the structural integrity of your buildings, create a cleaner school environment, and a healthier learning environment.
2. Facilities managers: have 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 communicate with principals to inform teachers and office staff. Infrequent trash collection schedules can generate *serious* pest problems.
3. Principals: make sure 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 items.

Teachers

You do an amazing job teaching with limited resources and time. Unfortunately, pests seem to LOVE all things "teacher"! Lounges are high-use areas with minimal accountability. Classrooms often have significant space limitations resulting in clutter. Both areas are among the most pest-prone. **Fortunately, pest management is NOT another job -- it overlaps with what you are already doing.**

1. 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 instead of cardboard boxes...or better yet, discard food art altogether.
2. When you're reorganizing (end of year, winter break, etc.) use the opportunity to recycle ALL CORRUGATED CARDBOARD and substitute storage bins for cardboard. Adult and immature cockroaches are transported *inside* the corrugations of cardboard boxes. Both roaches and crickets

may also feed on the box materials.

3. Classroom garbage and recycling may not be emptied regularly over the summer. Don't return to a classroom full of flies or cockroaches -- be aware of cut-off dates for classroom garbage and cleaning services.
4. Report leaky faucets and watermarks in ceilings and walls to maintenance. Water is rare in the desert, and pests will flock to leaks.
5. Dry food, snacks, etc. should not be left in the classroom over the summer. Take them home with you, give them to students, or throw them out. (During the school year, store dry snacks in containers with lids.)
6. Remove classroom plants, pets and pet food.
7. Give yourself an amnesty day on accumulated "stuff". Haven't used it in two years? Recycle it. Clutter is one of the main attractants for classroom pests. If you find pesticides in your classroom, make sure you dispose of them appropriately.
8. Teacher's lounge: open the refrigerator and take a good look at every item – is it yours? Take it home. Is it expired or no longer recognizable? Don't hesitate...toss it!



Cockroaches live contentedly in the seals of refrigerator and microwave doors. Appliances need to be cleaned regularly, and refrigerators emptied before breaks. To increase accountability, consider drawing up a schedule for lounge staff.

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" on 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 – even paper recycling -- 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. It is well worth the effort! This keeps the P-traps from drying up, and American cockroaches from gaining access via drains. *A building-wide infestation of roaches could be the result of not regularly performing this simple and effective action.*

IPM Specialists

As pest managers, you are diagnosticians of pest problems for your district, and naturally fall into an educator role. Share this Pest Press with school principals and encourage them to pass it along to staff. Use archived issues to help your educational efforts. If school staff does their part, it makes your job much more efficient.

Grounds Crew

A walk around the premises will reveal pest proofing opportunities. Allow yourself to take note of things you're normally too busy to notice -- or unable to with students present.

1. Irrigation/drip lines for plants no longer present, and sprinkler heads too large for the job will waste water and create mosquito habitat.
2. Prune vegetation path-width away from buildings. Overhanging trees in particular provide pests (especially bark scorpions) with easy access indoors.



Kitchen staff

1. Before heading out for the summer, remove as much corrugated cardboard from the pantry and kitchen area as possible. Adult and immature German cockroaches can be found in the corrugation columns, and are brought into schools this way. These cockroaches in particular thrive in kitchen environments and can prove challenging to eradicate.
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!!** Pests love the food and grease build-up in hard-to-reach corners. Spray or steam washing is ideally done on a monthly basis (at a 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. Students can help take responsibility for a healthy school by removing clutter and any stored food, and helping tidy the classroom in preparation for breaks.

Arizona Children's Environmental Health Program



Congratulations to Scottsdale Unified School District for earning IPM STAR® Certification!!! This prestigious standing is earned by passing a rigorous IPM inspection by the IPM Institute of North America, Inc. Dave Peterson is the Facilities Manager and this is the second of our valley's school districts he has put through the STAR process. Well done Dave!!!!

Lee Styer, District IPM Specialist, and the facilities administrative staff at SUSD demonstrated outstanding dedication to successfully implementing IPM. SUSD is the fourth school district in Arizona to earn STAR® Certification. Congrats to them and all the SUSD school staff for their efforts!!

For more information on STAR® Certification, go to <http://www.ipminstitute.org/ipmstar.htm>.

IPM in YOUR school – need help? Where to get started?

Find “tools” to help you on the University of Arizona Urban IPM website, toolbox page:

http://cals.arizona.edu/urbanipm/schools/tool_box/index.html

- ✓ Practicing *real* IPM or not?
- ✓ How to contract for IPM services (and make sure you get quality IPM)?
- ✓ How to communicate IPM with school staff?
- ✓ Find posters, pest presses, guidelines, sample documents, and more!

Information sources:

1. How to Bug Proof Your Home. University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.
<http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/insects/az1320/>.
2. Jerry Jochim, Environmental Technician, Monroe County Community Schools Corporation.
http://www.mccsc.edu/~jjochim/html/reg/bios/jerry_bio.htm

Authors: Jennifer L. Snyder, Dr. Dawn H. Gouge

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



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