

# The Principles of Integrated Pest Management

- 1 KEEP PESTS OUT:** Seal and repair cracks and holes that give access to the inside of buildings. Install good quality door sweeps. Discourage propping doors open. Install window screens (40 mesh or finer). Inspect deliveries and remove cardboard boxes as soon as possible – cockroaches love cardboard!
- 2 KEEP THE PLACE CLEAN:** Good sanitation is a great way to prevent pests! Many pests occur in our space because we provide them with food and water. Corner-clean by regularly moving equipment and shelves to get at hard-to-reach spaces. Store food in plastic, pest-proof containers. Repair leaky pipes, and remove standing water. Place dumpsters as far from the building as is practical; keep the area clean.
- 3 DON'T PROVIDE SHELTER:** Clutter, cardboard, and nooks and crannies provide quiet places for pests to eat, sleep and reproduce. A messy room has many nooks and crannies, and hides evidence of pest problems. Get rid of the clutter! Seal holes in the walls and cracks along baseboards. Use shelving that is easy to clean under.
- 4 MONITOR FOR PEST PROBLEMS:** Place monitoring traps in kitchens, cafeteria areas, pantries, bathrooms, lunchrooms, classrooms, and custodial storage closets. Pest management experts can help you monitor for pests.
- 5 EXISTING PEST PROBLEMS:** Your pest management expert can help you create a strategy for solving current infestations. Your pest management plan may include the application of insecticides along with other steps taken to avoid reoccurrence of the infestation.

## Working With a Pest Management Professional

**A good pest management company is an IPM advocate.**

They are a *partner* in your pest management program. They serve as educators and diagnosticians of pest problems. Make sure they visit during regular business hours to communicate with the occupants of the facility.

### Call the company

Ask for a written description of their IPM Services. Keep a copy in your pest management binder.

Services should include:

- Regular inspections
- Regular service reports
- IPM recommendations and advice
- Use of reduced-risk pesticide products

**Does the company promote the routine use of sprays?  
If so...find another company!**

### Talk with your pest control professional

Is he/she familiar with IPM law and your facility's requirements? Discuss current pest problems and their causes. Be present during all service visits.

### Request detailed service reports and IPM recommendations

Ensure that important maintenance recommendations are undertaken in a timely manner.

### Hire a cooperative, knowledgeable IPM professional

Your expert should be a respected educator.

## WHY USE

### INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT?



1. IPM is the most effective method of controlling pests.
2. Studies show that children's developing systems are at greater risk than adults to the effects of pesticide exposure.
3. Kids may crawl or play on surfaces that have been treated with pesticides, increasing their risk of exposure.
4. Getting organized, improving sanitation, and sealing buildings results in numerous benefits in addition to pest management.



## School IPM Guidelines

1. No scheduled pesticide applications. Appropriate pesticide applications may be used when an infestation is confirmed. Only certified applicators should apply pesticides.
2. Pest management should be based on the results of regular inspections and monitoring.
3. Designate an IPM Specialist from your district level staff.
4. Educate staff and teachers about IPM.
5. Prevent pests:
  - ✓ Pest proof buildings to keep pests out
  - ✓ Keep the facilities clean to avoid providing the pests with food and water
  - ✓ Keep facilities organized and uncluttered to avoid providing pests with harborage
6. Restrict the pesticides allowed to reduced-risk options and the safest application methods.
7. Notify all parents, guardians and staff at least two days before pesticide applications are made (state rules vary, if in doubt notify).



# Integrated Pest Management

**Did...**  
IPM is the safest, most effective way to manage pests

**...you...**  
An IPM program results in fewer pests and reduced pesticide risk

**...know?**  
Childhood exposure to pesticides is linked to asthma and other health problems

## What IS “IPM”?

- IPM relies on inspection and monitoring to determine if pests are present.
- IPM uses many non-chemical methods for controlling pests; reduced-risk pesticides are used when appropriate.
- Pesticides are never applied when children are present.



US Environmental Protection Agency  
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**Protecting children from pests  
and inappropriate pesticides**

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