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## Poison Safety

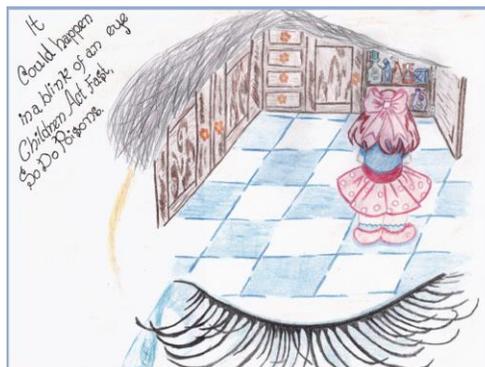
Each year, poison centers receive more than 145,000 reports involving pesticides and disinfectants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urges parents, school staff and caregivers to secure pesticides and other household chemicals in locked cabinets out of children's reach. More than 90% of poisonings happen in homes. Each year, approximately 65,000 children aged 5 and younger are accidentally exposed to pesticides. More than 10,000 of those exposures involve mouse and rat poisons. EPA established new and improved safety standards for consumers to use a protective tamper-resistant bait station for mouse and rat bait products. These measures will prevent children from accessing baits and reduce exposure to the active ingredient.

**National Poison Prevention Week** (March 15-21, 2015), the third week in March each year is designated to highlight the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them. Every day, people can and do prevent poisonings. We invite you to review the information here and to become actively involved to ensure the safety of children and adults in your home and in your community.

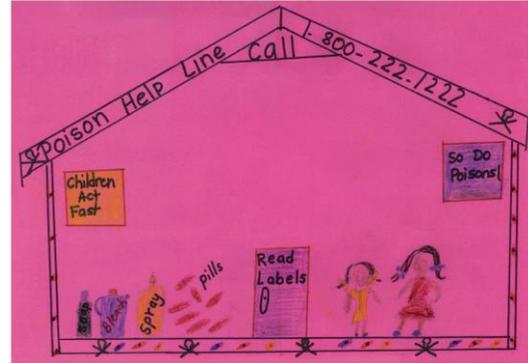
### Poisonings are preventable

Here are some simple tips to keep your home and school environment safe from accidental poisonings:

- Always store pesticides and other household chemical products out of the reach of children – preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Use mouse and rat poison products with a tamper-resistant bait station.
- Inspect your home and school regularly, room by room, for potential poisoning hazards and remove any unsafe products.
- Use child-resistant packaging properly by closing the container tightly after use.
- Purchase only the amount of pesticide product that is required for the job.
- Never transfer pesticides or other household chemical products to containers that can be mistaken for food or drink.
- Never store pesticides in the same locations with food products.
- Never mix household or chemical products together. Doing so can create dangerous gases or other chemical reactions.



- Never share prescription medicines.
- Never use illegal pesticides from foreign internet or mailorder sources.
- Program into your phone the Poison Help Center number, **1-800-222-1222**.



Poison prevention tips and resources to protect your family:  
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/poisonprevention.htm>

Room by room checklist for potential poisoning hazards:  
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/roombyroom-checklist.htm>

List of rat and mouse products that meet the EPA's safety standards:  
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mice-and-rats/rodent-bait-station.html>



1 800-858-7378

[npic@ace.orst.edu](mailto:npic@ace.orst.edu)

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## Pesticide Safety Tips

Although pesticides are useful tools to control pests, they can be dangerous if used carelessly or not stored properly. EPA provides some tips for safer pest control:

- The most effective way to reduce risks posed by pesticides is to use non-chemical control methods to reduce or eliminate pest problems. Around homes and schools, such measures include removing sources of food and water (such as leaky pipes) and destroying pest shelters and breeding sites (such as indoor clutter, outdoor litter and plant debris).
- If you decide you need to use pesticides, always read the label first and follow the directions to the letter, including all precautions and restrictions.
- Don't use products for pests that are not indicated on the label and don't use more pesticide than directed by the label. Don't think that twice the amount will do twice the job. Sometimes twice the amount will be less effective, because of the way the pesticide works.
- Use protective measures when handling pesticides as directed by the label, such as wearing impermeable gloves, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts. Change clothes and wash your hands immediately after applying pesticides.

- Before applying a pesticide (indoors or outdoors), move children, their toys, and pets from the area and keep them away until the pesticide has dried or as recommended by the label.
- Don't spray outdoors on windy or rainy days. Take precautions to keep the pesticide from drifting or running off into the vegetable garden, pool, or neighbor's yard.
- Remove and containerize food including pet food during indoor applications.
- If using a commercial applicator or lawn care service, ask for information about potential risks and safety precautions to take.
- Don't buy more pesticides than you will need. If you have leftover pesticides, check with your local government or waste management agency to determine whether your community has a household hazardous waste collection program or other program for disposing of pesticides. If no community program exists, follow label directions and any state or local regulations regarding disposal.
- Keep the telephone number of your area Poison Control Center near your telephone: 1-800-222-1222.

For more information on pesticide safety, please read:

[http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/factsheets/pest\\_ti.htm](http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/factsheets/pest_ti.htm)

**The EPA recommends and promotes integrated pest management (IPM) in schools**, to reduce pesticide risk and exposure to children, because children spend so much of their time at school. For more information on school IPM read:

<http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/ipm/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-150/>

## **Bed Bug Battle – We Want to Hear From You**

The University of Arizona and several partnering research institutions are working to battle the bed bug resurgence in the United States. Researchers hope to determine the real impact and social cost of bed bugs, the risks to individuals and society, as well as the significant causes of infestations.

We hope you will complete an online bed bug survey. This survey asks brief questions on how bed bugs affect your life, how bed bugs cause people stress, and what people do when trying to get rid of them. This voluntary survey should take about ten minutes. The survey is available in English and Spanish. There is no compensation available for your participation. Your answers are anonymous and you will be contributing to information that will help us battle the pesky parasites.

**Who should take this survey? Everyone!** We would like to hear from people who currently live with bed bugs, people who have dealt with them in the past, and people who have never experienced bed bugs. We are dedicated to helping community members who need it most, and sharing your experience will be extremely helpful to develop strategies to reduce the bed bug problems.

English version of Bed Bug survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DGLQS52>

Spanish version of Bed Bug survey: <https://es.surveymonkey.com/s/F5NZXJK>

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## IAQ Master Class Webinar Series Continues

As part of EPA's ongoing effort to continue the momentum to create healthy school indoor environments in all our nation's schools, they are pleased to announce the launching of a new **IAQ Master Class Webinar Series**.

At the June 2014 SHIELD Summit, the SHIELD Network began work on designing ten 1-hour technical core-competency web-based trainings intended to build the capacity of school district staff across the country to start, improve, or sustain an IAQ management program.

The webinars will feature technical experts, industry leaders and model school districts from the SHIELD Network. CEU's are pending and certificates of completion will be provided to all who complete the post-training evaluation.

Mark your calendar to join the Master Class Technical Webinar Series. Schedule below.

Webinar Topic	Webinar Date
Energy Efficiency and IAQ	3/12/15
Integrated Pest Management	4/16/15
Asthma Management	5/07/15
Cleaning and Maintenance	6/04/15
Materials Selection	7/16/15
Source Control	8/06/15

March 12, 2015, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Eastern / 10:00-11:30 p.m. Arizona: [Indoor Air Quality Plus Energy Efficiency: A Formula for Saving Money While Protecting Your School's Indoor Environment](#)

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## Upcoming Webinars and Events

Attend Free Sessions of the [Green Strides Webinar Series](#). View archived webinars [here](#).

The [Green Strides Webinar Series](#) provides school communities the tools to reduce their schools' environmental impact and costs; improve health and wellness; and teach effective environmental literacy, including STEM, green careers, and civic engagement.

**School IPM Webinar Series:** EPA's Center of Expertise for School IPM will host a series of webinars in the coming months on pest management topics of special interest to the school community. These monthly webinars feature presentations from experts in the field. Find information about these webinars: <http://www.epa.gov/pestwise/events/sipm-webinars.html>

March 19, 2015, 2:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern / 11:00-12:30 p.m. Arizona: [Bed Bugs in Schools](#)

**March 23-26, 2015, [8<sup>th</sup> International IPM Symposium – IPM: Solutions for a Changing World](#), Salt Lake City, Utah**

The 8th International IPM Symposium, "IPM: Solutions for a Changing World," will be held March 23-26, 2015 at the [Salt Palace Convention Center](#), 100 S. West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah USA. The symposium sessions will be divided into tracks based on commodity or setting and will address various aspects of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) across disciplines and around the world.

**June 5, 2015, [24<sup>th</sup> Annual Desert Horticulture Conference](#), JW Marriott Starr Pass, 3800 W Starr Pass, Tucson, AZ 85745**

The Desert Horticulture Conference is the premier annual conference for all members of the southwest green industry: landscape architects, designers, growers, retailers, contractors, maintenance personnel, suppliers, and educators. Presenting timely and research-based information relevant for designing, building, maintaining, and producing plants for urban landscapes in the arid Southwest. Please visit the website at <http://cals.arizona.edu/deserthort/>.

For more information about the EPA Schools program, visit:  
<http://www.epa.gov/schools/>

For more information about the Community IPM, visit:  
<http://www.extension.org/pages/23359/urban-integrated-pest-management-community-page>



For more information about School IPM in Arizona, visit:  
<http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/westernschoolIPM.html>

**Shujuan (Lucy) Li**, Newsletter Editor and Assistant in Extension. Email: [lisj@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:lisj@cals.arizona.edu)

**Dawn H. Gouge**, Public Health IPM Expert. Email: [dhgouge@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:dhgouge@cals.arizona.edu)

**Shaku Nair**, Assistant in Extension. Email: [nairs@email.arizona.edu](mailto:nairs@email.arizona.edu)

**Al Fournier**, IPM Assessment. Email: [fournier@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:fournier@cals.arizona.edu)

**Ursula Schuch**, Landscape Horticulture. Email: [ukschuch@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:ukschuch@ag.arizona.edu)

**Kai Umeda**, Extension Agent, Turf. Email: [kumeda@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:kumeda@cals.arizona.edu); <http://turf.arizona.edu>

**Dave Kopec**, Turf Specialist. Email: [dkopec@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:dkopec@ag.arizona.edu)

**Paul Baker**, Urban Entomologist. Email: [pbaker@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:pbaker@ag.arizona.edu)

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