

## The Principals of Integrated Pest Management

1

**EXCLUDE PESTS:** Prevent pest entry. 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 occasionally moving equipment and shelves to get to 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

**ELIMINATE 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. It 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 technician.

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 technician.

Your technician should be a respected educator.

## WHY USE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT?

1. IPM is the most effective method of controlling pests.
2. Getting organized, improving sanitation, and sealing buildings results in numerous benefits in addition to pest management.
3. Pesticides may not always be the safest way to deal with pest problems. Studies have shown that children are at greater risk than adults to the effects of pesticide exposure.
4. Kids may crawl or play on surfaces that have been treated with pesticides, increasing their risk of exposure.

## Your 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 on-staff IPM Specialist.
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 (see guidelines in IPM Toolbox).
7. According to school policy, all parents, guardians and staff should be notified before pesticide applications are made.

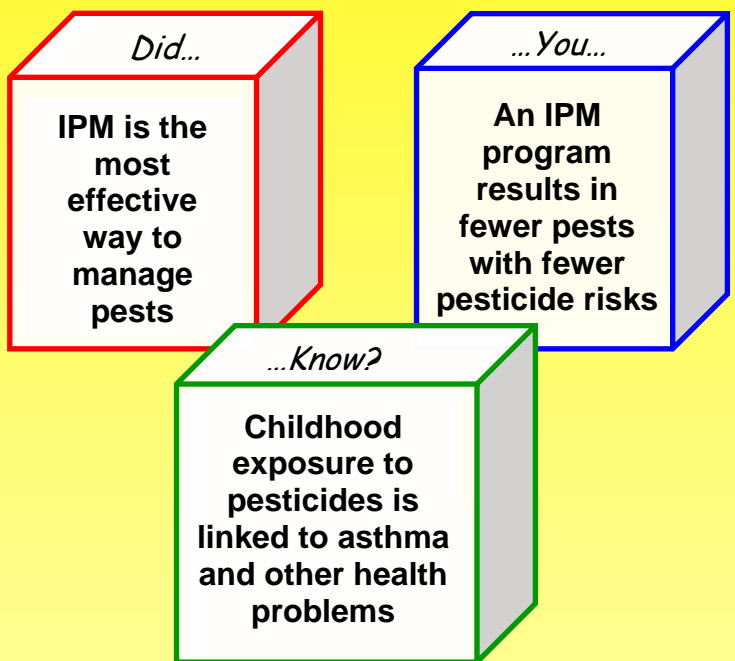


### LEARN MORE!

Visit the US Environmental Protection Agency at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/> or the University of Florida School IPM Program at <http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>.



# Integrated Pest Management



## What IS “IPM”?

- IPM relies on inspection and monitoring to determine if pests are present
- IPM uses mainly 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  
Office of Pesticide Programs

## Protecting children from pests and pesticides

### Funded in part by:

National Foundation for IPM Education under a Cooperative Agreement with EPA  
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality