

*What is*  
**School  
Integrated Pest  
Management (IPM)?**



A tutorial for school officials and concerned parents

# IPM Definitions



**Technically:** IPM is a process for achieving long term, environmentally sound pest suppression through the use of a wide variety of technological and management practices.

**Simply:** IPM controls pests while reducing the hazards of pests and pesticide exposure to humans.

# Significance of Common Pests in Schools



- ✍ **Cockroaches:** Skin fragments and feces are the most common cause of asthma in urban youth.
- ✍ **Ants:** Fire ant stings cause several human deaths per year.
- ✍ **Rodents:** Deadly hantavirus is transmitted by rodent urine and feces.

# Harmful Effects of Pesticides Caused by Excess Exposure



- ✍ **Acute Effects:** Harmful or fatal if swallowed or inhaled.
- ✍ **Delayed Effects:** Tumors, cancer, birth defects, blood and nervous system disorders.
- ✍ **Allergic Effects:** Asthma and skin, eye and nose irritation.

# Four Points of IPM



- 1 Prevent pest populations.
- 2 Apply pesticides only as needed.
- 3 Select the least hazardous pesticides.
- 4 Target pesticides to areas not contacted by or accessible to the students, faculty or staff.

# 1) Prevent Pest Populations



All plumbing should be in good repair.

Proper screening or other devices should be in place around air vents, windows, doors, etc.



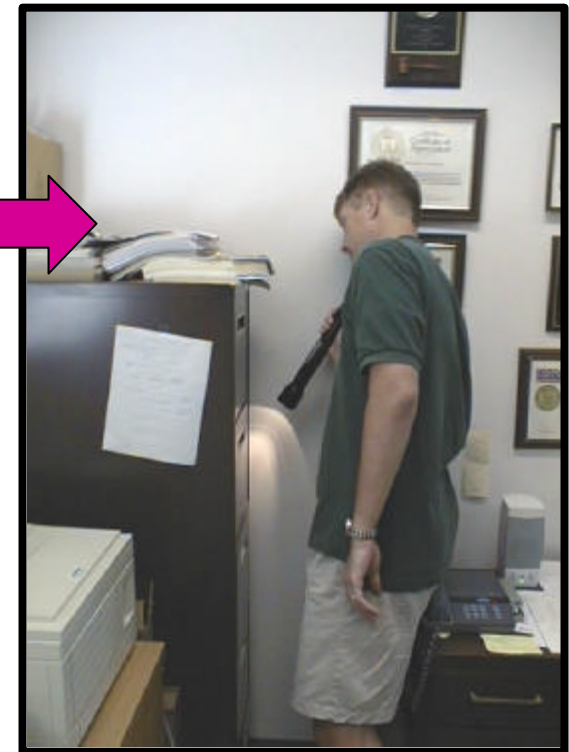
Any cracks in walls or around plumbing and electrical conduit should be well sealed.



## 2) Apply Pesticides As Needed



Treatment is necessary only when pests are present. Proper inspection procedures result in early detection of pest problems.



Sticky traps are great for monitoring pest infestations. Also, specimens can be collected and properly identified.

# 3) Select the Least Hazardous Material



Sprays create significant risks to children in schools. When it is necessary to treat, use the safest products that will solve the problem.



Many newly developed products are very effective in controlling pests, but are virtually harmless to humans.



# 4) Target Pesticides Properly



Crack and crevice treatments, such as puffing dusts into wall voids or treating cracks with gel baits drastically reduces exposure potential.

Targeting surfaces with residual sprays places pesticides where children and staff may contact them.



# Benefits of IPM



- ✍ Reduced pesticide use.
- ✍ Healthier learning environment for our children.
- ✍ Better long-term control of pests.
- ✍ Reduced liability of school districts.

# Acknowledgements



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This is one of several presentations available at  
the School IPM World Wide Web Site

**<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>**

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