

Working with a Pest Management Company in an IPM Program

IPM in Schools and Child Care Facilities

The 5 PRINCIPLES OF IPM:

1. Exclusion: Keeping pests out
2. Sanitation: Limiting pest resources
3. Monitor for pests: Recognizing a pest problem
4. Select a treatment strategy: Solving the pest problem
5. Evaluation and record keeping



Your Pest Management Professional should serve as your educator and diagnostician.



An increasing number of pest management companies are providing IPM services such as monitoring for pests and use of baits and other alternatives to sprayed insecticides. Communicate with your current provider that you are interested in developing an IPM program. They may be knowledgeable about IPM and happy to provide these services. When hiring a new company, provide a copy of your pest management policy and confirm that the company can provide services that are consistent with the policy.

Professional IPM services should include:

- Thorough and regular inspection of all pest vulnerable areas of buildings and grounds
- Monitoring for pests and pest identification
- Interacting with community members during operational hours
- Recommendations for control which may include recommendations on housekeeping or maintenance items
- Pesticide applications only when needed. No routine sprays!
- Provide schools with information/labels for pesticides used
- Use of reduced-risk pesticides and application methods
- Scheduling pesticide applications when the building is not occupied
- Detailed record keeping: pest activity, recommendations, and pesticides used
- Evaluation of management success

Things you can do to ensure a successful IPM program:

- Provide a copy of the pest management policy to the pest management professional
- If possible, consult with IPM experts when the policy is drafted
- Discuss the program with the contractor and establish goals and objectives
- Identify an onsite employee to serve as an ongoing contact for the PMP who will communicate the pest manager's recommendations to administrators and staff and ensure) that they are carried out. This Coordinator is also responsible for confirming that any control methods used are consistent with the facilities pest management policy.

Work with the pest manager to implement recommendations for sanitation, clutter control, and pest exclusion. These issues are extremely important and can make or break an IPM program. IPM requires a good partnership, effective communication and a good understanding between the PMP and the facility staff.