

# IPM in Schools/Child Care

## Pest Monitoring Protocol



**When placing pest trapping monitors it is important to remember a few things:**

- Monitors should be placed in **all** pest vulnerable areas (PVAs) and hot spots.
- Monitors should be placed against a wall and/or on a window ledge. Secluded corners are often good spots.
- Monitors should be placed out of the way of people or activities.
- All monitors should have a placement date and number.
- Monitor placement should be documented in case someone else has to retrieve them.
- Monitor locations should cover the site well. Use too many as opposed to too few.
- Place traps near to persistent pest conducive conditions (PCCs). This can document the effect of the PCC so a maintenance or repair order can be placed.
- Monitors should be re-locatable so you can target the pest.
- Stickers may be used to locate monitors that are placed underneath shelving or equipment. Sticky dots at eye level give a clear indication where monitors have been placed.
- If monitors are placed in a classroom, the teacher should be informed of its purpose.
- Monitors should be “read” monthly and *should be changed* when it is filled with pests, dust/dirt, or *when three months have passed*.
- Typically an elementary school will require 20 monitors, a middle school 35, and a high school 40.

PVAs	Monitor Placement Area
1. Kitchen/Cafeteria	Dry storage and pantry, dishwasher area, near external cafeteria doors, near floor drains, and within the lower panels of serving counters.
2. Staff lounge	Behind vending machines, in counter or drawer, behind microwave, and next to refrigerator.
3. Custodian’s storage	Under shelving, near to floor sink, near external door (if present).

4. Reported hot zones from pest sighting log.	Under counters, sinks, near windows
5. Special Education or kindergarten classrooms	Near food preparation area, near backpack storage, under sink.
6. Home economics/ Life skills classrooms	Near stove or refrigerator, near washer/dryer, under counter.
7. Stage areas	Under stage storage, equipment room.
8. Locker areas	Under lockers
9. Concession stands	Under counters or equipment
10. Classrooms with animals/plants	Near pet food or plants
11. Cluttered classrooms	Remove clutter, monitor in storage areas, under sinks
12. Bathrooms (if there is a problem)	Near external doors, near cracks and crevices, near utility pipes without escutcheon plates.
13. Nurses station (if there is a problem)	Under desk, under sink, near external door.

### General Information:

Monitors should be placed on the floor against walls and/or on window ledges. If monitors are likely to be moved, use the double sided tape to fasten the monitor in place. If monitors are not catching pests, think about how the pests may be entering and re-locate the monitor to a more suitable location. Don't forget to use other structural elements as monitors. Window ledges, floor drains, light coverings, and spider webbing all serve to help you monitor for pests. Monitoring stations should not be stored alongside volatile pesticides.

There are flat traps, box traps, matchbox style traps, tent traps, etc. which all come in a variety of sizes. There are pheromone attractants available which are specific to a targeted pest. Experiment with the different options so see what works most effectively in your own specific sites. If pest managers are having trouble with the traps collapsing, try the matchbox style, which are a lot more robust.