

What is IPM?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the coordinated use of physical, biological and cultural controls, and least-toxic pest control products and techniques, to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment.



Why IPM?

Serious questions have been raised about the safety and effectiveness of conventional chemical pest control programs in school settings. Increasingly, research suggests that many chemical pesticides pose threats to our health. Reliance on chemical pesticides may also result in environmental contamination, and lead to resistance in targeted pests.

In addition, the New York State Attorney General recommends that schools should adopt least toxic pest management policies and practices in order to reduce or eliminate pesticide use, and should select the least toxic pesticides in situations where pesticide use is deemed to be essential.

How are pests controlled with IPM?

Integrated Pest Management involves the monitoring of pest populations, establishing tolerance levels, modification of habitats, utilization of least-toxic controls, keeping of records and evaluation of performance on an ongoing basis.

The key to an effective IPM program is to eliminate sources of food and water, remove materials that provide shelter, and to prevent entry into your home or building.

IPM promotes **limiting the use of pesticides** in pest control programs while preventing and controlling pest infestations.

IPM means **eliminating sources of food, water and shelter** that pests thrive on.

IPM is accomplished **by improving general maintenance**, i.e. preventing accumulation of water, reducing clutter, sealing cracks and crevices, effective landscaping.



Report all building maintenance problems to the Physical Plant.

What about pesticides?

Even the most skillful and precise application of pesticides will not solve pest problems. Some pesticides may be necessary and will only be used by a certified applicator after performing a thorough inspection to identify the pest "target" and to determine the cause for the existence or infestation (e.g. poor sanitation, open penetrations, water leaks, etc.).

Glue boards are used to identify and monitor the type of pests present, as well as the size of the infestation and direction of travel.



Traps and baiting systems will be used to control infestations. Chemical sprays will normally only be used when other control strategies have proven to be ineffective.

When necessary, a limited amount of **chemical** spray may be directed into cracks, crevices and other concealed places where pests are hiding.

Routine or scheduled spraying of chemicals in the absence of pests is irresponsible, ineffective and expensive, and therefore, will not be done.

What can YOU do?

Use this check list to Inspect your area and to make the necessary repairs.

General Housekeeping

- Close all screens, windows and doors.
- Collect and dispose all scrap paper, boxes and other debris.
- Vacuum and mop floors regularly.
- Empty all garbage containers daily.
- Inspect plants regularly for pests.

Good Sanitation

- Allow food and beverages in designated areas only.
- Prohibit storage of food in desks, file drawers and lockers.
- Store food and condiments in tightly sealed containers.
- Dispose of all scrap food promptly.
- Clean all dishes, appliances, and utensils thoroughly and regularly.
- Clean behind and underneath appliances, cabinets, etc.
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces.
- Clean and dry all mops, buckets and sponges promptly.

Building Maintenance

- Fix leaking pipes, faucets, and other plumbing fixtures.
- Clean grease traps and floor drains routinely.
- Install weather-stripping and door sweeps.
- Caulk wall and floor cracks and crevices.
- Install and maintain screens in doors, windows, vents and floor drains.
- Keep loading docks clean of food waste, garbage and debris.
- Seal pipe chases and other penetrations.
- Keep shrubs, grass and mulches at least one foot away from buildings.
- Prune shrubs and remove leaves from around buildings on a regular basis.

If you have any pest problems or questions:

- ✓ **Please call EH&S at: 2-6410**
- × **Do not apply any pesticides yourself!**
- × **Do not tamper with glue boards, bait stations, traps or other pest control products that have been applied by a certified applicator.**

For additional information about Environmental Health & Safety programs, please visit our web site address at: <http://www.ehs.sunysb.edu/>



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