



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### Integrated Pest Management Office of Compliance Support

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[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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#### **Introduction:**

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a system of managing pests by using a series of management techniques that are safer for the environment and children.
- IPM uses both non-chemical and chemical methods to control pests.
- The most effective way to reduce risks from pesticides is to use non-chemical control methods to reduce or eliminate pest problems. IPM options include better sanitation, improved maintenance and mechanical controls, and the judicious use of pesticides.

#### **How pests and pesticides affect our environment and our health:**

- All of us need to be protected from pests at home, at school or at the office. In addition to bites and stings, the grime left by some pests can trigger allergic reactions and asthma attacks.
- Harsh pesticides can be harmful, too, unless they are used safely and correctly. Many pesticides, if not used properly, may harm the environment and are suspected to be toxic to humans. Depending on the dose, pesticides may cause a range of harmful health effects and may accumulate in the food chain.
- Children are exposed to more pollutants in their food, water, and air because they eat, drink and breathe more per pound of body weight than adults. They are more vulnerable to the harmful effects of toxic chemicals because their bodily defense mechanisms are not fully formed.

#### **What IDEM is doing to help:**

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- Because children are especially vulnerable to certain pesticides, IDEM's Community Environmental Health Program is working in partnership with the Indiana State Department of Health and the Office of the Indiana State Chemist to help Hoosier schools and child care facilities learn about and implement IPM in their operations.
- Through its *Five Star Environmental Recognition Program for Child Care Providers* and its *Green Steps for Schools* program, IDEM's Community Environmental Health Program helps educate owners, employees, and their families about safer ways to reduce pests in the home, office, school, church, and even outdoors.

#### **What citizens can do:**

##### **Remember the five principals of IPM:**

- Exclusion (keep pests out).
- Sanitation (keep areas clean).
- Monitoring (watch for signs of pests).

- Treatment (where pests are a problem, select the least hazardous but most effective method of reducing pests).
- Evaluation (evaluate each course of treatment and keep records about sanitation and chemical intervention).

Take simple steps to keep pests out:

- Fix holes in screens, seal cracks in floors and walls, and tighten seals around doors and windows. For example, seal cracks and openings along baseboards, pipe openings, behind sinks and around windows with caulking.
- Clean up spills right away. Do not leave garbage out to attract bugs. Store food in airtight containers. Remember that good housekeeping is an important part of IPM.
- Reduce clutter and cardboard because these items can attract cockroaches and other pests.
- Try using bait gels in cracks and crevices for insects and traps for rodents instead of applying pesticide sprays when possible. If you have domestic animals or children do not use rodent baits.
- If you hire a contractor, make sure they use IPM strategies.

**Pests and problems that IPM can help control:**

IPM can help control:

- Flies and cockroaches that may spread disease.
- Cockroaches that can cause allergies and trigger asthma attacks.
- Yellow jackets whose stings are painful and can be life-threatening to those with allergies.
- Spiders that may inflict painful bites and pose a health risk to their victims.
- Mice that may contaminate food, trigger asthma attacks, and cause structural damage.
- Termites that can cause structural damage.
- Low risk aesthetic problems including weeds in playgrounds; swarming ants, and fruit flies in the kitchen.

**More Information:**

- In case of an accidental exposure to pesticides, contact the Indiana Poison Control Center at (800) 222-1222.
- For information about IDEM's *Five Star Environmental Recognition Program for Child Care Facilities* and how IPM can help the children in your care, visit IDEM's Integrated Pest Management site [www.idem.IN.gov/health/2331.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/health/2331.htm) or contact the IDEM Community Environmental Health Coordinator at (800) 451-6027.
- For more information about Indiana's asthma program for schools and childcare, visit the Indiana State Department of Health website at [www.in.gov/isdh/25321.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/25321.htm).
- For more information on the use of pesticides, contact the Office of the Indiana State Chemist at (765) 494-1585 or visit <http://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide>.
- For assistance with school and child care facility IPM, contact Purdue University's IPM hotline at (877) 668-8476 or visit them on-line at [www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/outreach/schoolipm/](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/outreach/schoolipm/).