



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Integrated Pest Management

www.idem.IN.gov

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Description:

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a system that focuses on reducing pests by using a series of management techniques that is safer for the environment and children and uses both non-chemical and chemical methods.

Environmental Impacts:

- Many pesticides, if not used properly, may be harmful to the environment and 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. Schools and child care facilities have been targeted because children are especially vulnerable to certain pesticides. Children consume a diet different from adults, drinking and eating more per pound of body weight than adults.

IDEM's Role:

- 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.
- IDEM's Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance works with Hoosier schools and child care facilities to reduce pests and the use of pesticides through IPM, but IPM strategies can be implemented in the home, office, school, church and even outdoors.

Citizen's Role:

- The most effective way to reduce risks posed by pesticides is to use non-chemical control methods to reduce or eliminate pest problems. Consider the following steps to reduce pesticide use and pest problems:
 - Make sure screens do not have holes, and doors are sealed so insects cannot get through.
 - Seal cracks and openings along baseboards, pipe openings, behind sinks and around windows with caulking.
 - Clean up spills right away and do not leave garbage out to attract bugs. Remember that good cleaning is pest control.
 - Store food in airtight containers.
 - 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.

More Information:

- In case of an accidental exposure to pesticides, contact the Indiana Poison Control Center at (800) 382-9097.
- For more information on Integrated Pest Management, please visit IDEM's [Integrated Pest Management](#) site, or contact IDEM at (800) 988-7901.
- For more information on the use of pesticides, contact the Indiana State Chemist's Office at (317) 494-1585.
- 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 <http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/outreach/schoolipm/>.