

A school that adopts IPM will

- Increasingly use nonchemical measures to prevent pest infestations.
- Use pesticides only when necessary.
- Select pesticides that are the least toxic and provide the lowest risk.
- Use trained personnel to make pesticide applications.
- Apply pesticides when needed using methods that maximize pest exposure but minimize human exposure to pesticides.



IPM Resources

Web sites on pesticides and IPM

<http://schoolipm.ncsu.edu>
<http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~schoolipm>
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/>
<http://www.impinstitute.org>
<http://www.sripc.org/>

Publications

Integrated Pest Management for North Carolina Schools.
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INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT School IPM Campaign

Why We Need IPM in Schools



IPM makes a difference in

- 1 Health
- 2 Environment
- 3 Economics
- 4 Liability issues
- 5 Legislation

Why use IPM in schools?

Children and their teachers spend six to eight hours a day in school 180 to 200 days of the year. Their schools should be safe, healthy, and free of pests. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a proven method of controlling pests while reducing reliance on pesticides. Here are 5 reasons we need IPM in North Carolina schools:

1 Health

Pests pose serious risks to the health of children and school employees. Cockroaches are a source of allergens that can cause asthma in children; mosquitoes, flies, rodents, and other pests can harbor and transmit disease-causing microbes.

Many North Carolina schools address pest problems with regularly scheduled pesticide applications. But pesticides target life processes in insects and rodents that are similar to life processes in humans. Routine pesticide applications can be a problem to everyone in school, especially to children. Their central nervous, reproductive, and immune systems are still developing, making youngsters more susceptible to environmental toxicants.

Several major insecticides have been phased out of several specific uses by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) because of the potential toxicity to the development of children's nervous systems. The agency also is reviewing the safety of every pesticide, as some have been associated with increased risk of childhood asthma and cancers. For this reason, school districts in North Carolina should discontinue the routine use of pesticides.

2 Environment

Pesticides can have unexpected consequences on nontarget organisms even as they 1) reduce populations of structural, landscape, and public health pests; 2) increase food production; and 3) improve food preservation. Although pesticides are an important pest control tool, misapplications and overuse can negatively affect people, nontarget organisms, and the environment. Using pesticides routinely in schools can increase the risk to children.

3 Economics

The idea of IPM is to reduce reliance on pesticides by increasing the use of preventative pest control. This can be accomplished through improvements in sanitation, better design and maintenance of buildings and landscapes, and better food-handling and storage practices that remove pest-conducive conditions and help prevent or eliminate pest infestations. Routine, calendar-based pesticide applications are replaced with targeted, precise treatments made only when needed using products that have low toxicity. This means using bait (gels/stations) inaccessible to children and crack-and-crevice and spot treatments instead of baseboard sprays or fogging applications. IPM selects pesticide delivery systems and pesticide products that lower the risk of exposing children to pesticide residues.

Although the transition to IPM may require initial expenditures to train personnel, make preliminary repairs to structures, improve sanitation, and educate students and staff, in time, school systems that adopt IPM save money. Here is how:

- IPM reduces the need for expensive emergency pest control action.
- IPM reduces expenditure on the purchase and the unnecessary application of pesticides.

- IPM reduces or eliminates pest damage to stored food, structures, equipment, and stored school supplies.
- Repair and maintenance initiated through IPM inspections help schools to save energy, water, and money.

The savings from implementing IPM can be spent on structural maintenance and repairs.

4 Liability Issues

A well-planned and well-documented IPM program significantly reduces liability issues associated with unnecessary exposure to pests and pesticides. Judicious use of pesticides and record-keeping are important components of IPM programs and are mandatory for all pesticide applicators in North Carolina. An IPM program requires documentation of pest sightings as well as records of any chemical or nonchemical pest control actions taken.

5 Legislation

Because of the potential risks of using pesticides around children, some members of Congress drafted the School Environmental Protection Act of 2003 (SEPA). This bill would require school districts across the country to implement IPM programs to minimize the use of pesticides in schools and to notify parents, guardians, and school employees when certain pesticides will be applied.

Although SEPA 2003 is still pending, many states (including California, Connecticut, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia) have already passed legislation that regulates pesticide use in their schools. In 2005, the North Carolina House of Representatives unanimously passed the School Children's Health Act of 2005 (H1502). If it passes the Senate, this bill will require that schools reduce pesticide use by adopting IPM programs.