



Clutter Control for Classrooms



Clutter Test

- _____ Are there cobwebs in the corners of your room?
- _____ Is there dust standing on your shelves or books?
- _____ Do you have stacks of paper?
- _____ Are there old cardboard boxes piled in a corner?
- _____ Do you have stacks of magazines?
- _____ Does your classroom have drop ceilings?
- _____ Is there a leaky faucet or pipes in your room?
- _____ Do you store food for the students in a drawer?
- _____ Do you have "bugs" and white specks in food items for art and science projects?
- _____ Do you have a microwave or refrigerator in your room?



- ✓ **YES** - You may be attracting pests.
- ✓ **NO** - You are lucky! You have a clean classroom.

Pests can be any little critter including cockroaches, flies, bees, wasps, ants, mice, spiders, etc. They are called pests because they can spread germs, increase asthma conditions in students, and make most people shudder and run.

How do most people get rid of pests? They use pesticides. Pesticides are poisons that kill or attract pests. Pesticides are useful tools when applied by a certified pest management professional. Pesticides can pose a problem when used incorrectly.



Younger children spend a lot of time on the floor and often place their hands in their mouths. Some children may be sensitive to chemicals that trigger allergic reactions.

What can I do? Report pests when you see them. Use written logs so the pest management coordinator can report them to the pest management professional. The pest management professional can suggest ways to reduce pest problems and apply pesticides when needed.

Never store pesticides in classrooms.

Only trained pest management professionals should apply pesticides in your school. They have a contract to work in your school and that is their job.

How do I do to remove “clutter” pests?

Use caution when cleaning undisturbed places. Spiders are found in corners and boxes. Webbing and egg cases (round “balls” of webbing) are indications of eight-legged critters.

Store items in plastic storage boxes. Cardboard boxes can harbor cockroach egg cases.

Place boxes and other stored items away from walls. This space allows easy access for pest inspections.

Discourage future pests. Sweep or dust weekly. Pests do not like clean areas.

Students have an impact on pests too! Involve your students with routine cleaning and clutter control. They may take these positive practices home and practice them at home.

Clutter Control Tips

Students:

- ◇ Clean up leftover food or spilled drinks.
- ◇ Clean lockers often to eliminate food.
- ◇ Do not hide gum under desks.
- ◇ Report pests to teachers.



Teachers and other staff:

- ◇ Do not bring or use pesticides at school.
- ◇ Report pest sightings to the school’s pest management coordinator.
- ◇ Organize paper, supplies, etc.
- ◇ Leave space around boxes for easy cleaning and future inspections.
- ◇ Keep area under sinks clutter free for easy inspections.
- ◇ Sweep/vacuum daily.
- ◇ Remove trash daily, especially trash that contains food.
- ◇ Empty recycle boxes weekly.
- ◇ Rinse empty drink containers before placing in recycle bins.
- ◇ Keep areas dry and remove standing water.
- ◇ Remove wet or water damaged items.
- ◇ Store pet food in tightly sealed containers.
- ◇ Keep all food items including art projects (i.e., dried beans, cereal, popcorn, etc.) in tightly sealed containers.
- ◇ Avoid the use of shelf paper.
- ◇ Discard infested materials or food items.



Goal: Provide a safe learning environment by reducing pests and pesticide exposure through the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)



EXTENSION

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