



Oklahoma School IPM

IPM Roles: A Job for Everyone



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) works best when the whole school works as a team. Everyone has a job to control the pests. Anyone can contribute to the problem, and everyone can fix the problem.

IPM Coordinator

The IPM Coordinator is a school employee who implements the school IPM policy and site plans. The person needs some knowledge of IPM, but does not need to be a certified pesticide applicator unless pesticide application is part of the responsibility.

The IPM coordinator:

- ensures all pest management methods comply with the IPM policy
- coordinates inspections
- conducts regular committee meetings
- delegates responsibilities as needed
- maintains logs (pest sighting, monitoring, building repair, and pesticide application)
- submits building repair requests promptly
- works with the pest management professional on treatment methods, pesticide selection, timing, and location
- notifies parents, guardians, and staff of pesticide applications
- encourage parent involvement and education through newsletters and notification letters
- posts signs as needed in treated areas



Students need to clean lockers frequently.

IPM Committee

Communication is a key component of school IPM. The IPM committee includes a representative from all groups at the school.

IPM committee members:

- include the IPM Coordinator, students, parents, teachers, custodians, office staff, food service staff, administrators, and the pest management professional
- assist the IPM coordinator in following the IPM policy
- conduct and record results of frequent inspections of appointed areas
- evaluate and update the IPM policy and school (district) plans

Students, Teachers, and Staff

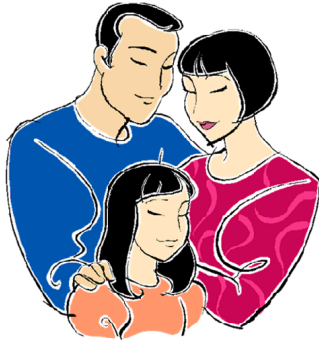
Students, teachers, and staff affect pest activity. Pests travel in backpacks. Food in lockers and desks attracts pests. Open window and doors allow pests to enter the school. Custodians and food service staff work with the school on sanitation.

School occupants:

- report pest sightings
- clean food and drink spills immediately
- check lockers frequently
- keep food in sealed plastic containers
- clean microwaves and refrigerators
- wash dishes after each use
- keep cabinets and closets organized and neat
- sweep or vacuum everyday
- wash desks, tables, and counters
- report building problems: water leaks, sink pipes, broken windows, torn screens, etc.
- remove recyclable paper and cans weekly
- incorporate the IPM policy objectives

- into the classroom curriculum
- involve the students in the data collection and inspections

Students learn and become more responsible of their actions. They bring pest management practices home. The community eventually benefits.



Parent involvement will increase the community's awareness of IPM and the program success.

Parents

Parents are the most responsible for children. They are also natural advocates. Parents can ask to reduce the dependence on pesticides. They aid greatly in the transition to an IPM program.

Parents must:

- learn about IPM practices
- follow practices at home to avoid sending pests to school with students
- be aware of the current pest management practices in school
- ask questions
- seek information
- express view to school administrators,

school board members, and Parent Teachers Associations

- participate on the IPM committee

Parent interest and concern is a valuable resource. These are the motivations to begin a school IPM program.

Decision Makers

Generally, people who approve and control the money for pest management directly manage or administer schools (superintendent or assistant superintendent of schools). The purchasing agent or contracting officer for the school (district) may be a major decision-maker for a school site.

Decision maker duties include:

- concerns for costs, liability, time expended, method effectiveness, safety, and customer or occupant satisfaction
- provide financial commitment
- membership on the IPM committee
- determine if the Pest Management Professional performs at an acceptable level
- determine that the school achieves pest management objectives

IPM is flexible, understands pests and people, and uses the safest and easiest techniques to reduce pests. Evaluation is an ongoing process. Evaluate every pest treatment for effectiveness and safety. Understanding, teamwork, and commitment from everyone help an IPM program succeed. Review and change aspects every year.



EXTENSION

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