

Our children deserve a safe place to learn.

- ✓ Pest management is part of school safety.
- ✓ Younger children are often on the floor where pests and pesticides are found.
- ✓ Students need environments with reduced exposure to pests that cause asthma or potential health effects.
- ✓ IPM reduces the use of chemicals and provides economical and effective pest suppression strategies.
- ✓ Schools across the nation that adopt IPM programs report cost-effective, long-term pest management.

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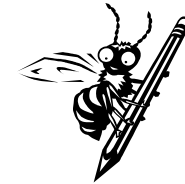


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OKLAHOMA SCHOOL IPM



Reducing Pests and
Pesticide Exposure
in Schools



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Issued in furtherance of cooperative Extension work, acts of May and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Edwin L. Miller, Interim Dean and Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$950.00 for 2,000 copies. 1104 PCB



Oklahoma School IPM



What is IPM?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and safe alternative to routine pesticide sprays.

Oklahoma's School IPM program is a comprehensive system that relies on students, teachers, parents, custodians, cooks, school officials and Pest Management Professionals.

IPM...

- √ prevents pests through exclusion and sanitation procedures.
- √ monitors pest populations and effectiveness of treatments.
- √ uses pesticides only when there is a pest problem.
- √ applies the least hazardous pesticide effective for control, and only if needed.
- √ targets pesticides to areas where pest problems exist when students, faculty, or staff are not present.



Cockroaches have been reported as the number one pest in Oklahoma schools according to recent surveys.

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Why IPM?

IPM is the safest method of eliminating pests through a variety of techniques with an emphasis on prevention. Pests are controlled more effectively and with fewer pesticides, which reduce health risks for children and school personnel.



Pest populations have dropped by 85% in schools across the nation who have adopted IPM.

Children and youth spend more time in public buildings than ever before. Most people agree that it makes sense to reduce their potential exposure to pesticides and pests as much as possible.

Did you know?

Cockroaches, mice, and rats contaminate food and food preparation surfaces. These pests can cause food poisoning and other digestive illnesses.

Mouse dander and cockroach skin fragments and feces can lead to asthma.

Bee, wasp, and fire ant stings can cause acute to severe reactions.

How Do We Start?

- Step 1. Develop an IPM policy and select a district or school IPM coordinator.
- Step 2. Determine pest tolerance levels for each building and each area within the building.
- Step 3. Inspect and identify pest problem areas.
- Step 4. Educate teachers, students, parents, custodians, staff, food service personnel, and school officials.
- Step 5. Establish pest and pesticide logs and conduct regular monitoring.
- Step 6. Contract with a Pest Management Professional who utilizes IPM methods.
- Step 7. Evaluate and adjust the IPM program as necessary.

IPM relies on flexibility, the understanding of pests and people, and the safest and easiest techniques to reduce pests.

Surveys conducted in Oklahoma schools:

- 55% of childcare facilities had pesticides on the premises.
- 88% of the schools do not have a written pest plan.
- Half of the schools apply a routine application of pesticides monthly.