

Management Tools for a Healthy Learning Environment

How to Use Sticky (Glue) Traps for Pest Monitoring

General Information

Monitoring for pests is the cornerstone of a school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. If you aren't monitoring, you aren't practicing IPM. Monitoring is easy, so start your monitoring program today.

Monitoring Basics

Glue, or sticky traps/boards (monitors) are a simple, effective, and passive way to monitor for pests. Monitors work 24-7 to monitor for pests. There are various sizes and shapes and some come with attractive chemicals (pheromones) for specific pests. Choose the monitor that best fits your program or particular situation.

Monitors provide a lot of information about pests in your building. When placing traps, remember to write the date, room/bldg., and location on the monitor, and record that information on a pest monitoring data sheet. Check monitors on a bi-weekly or monthly basis for pests and record pest types and counts. If you are uncertain what a pest is, contact USU Extension for help. When traps become dirty, full, or lose their stickiness, they should be replaced (~ about 3 months). See page 2 for tips on using monitors.

*Preferably, sticky traps/glue boards should not be used to monitor for, or kill mice or rats. There are other devices for rodent monitoring or trapping, which are discussed in the Pest Press fact sheet “Trapping and Baiting for Mice and Rats.”



Did You Know?

Monitoring can provide vital pest information, including:

- pest type (species)
- life stages present
- pest abundance
- location of pests and harborages
- location of travel direction/routes
- pest pressure and frequency
- population status (growing/declining)
- if action is necessary



Above:
Figure 1. Examples of arthropod pest monitors. Despite what a trap may claim on the packaging, do not use glue boards for mouse or rat monitoring.



Right:
Figure 2. Dual-purpose mouse and arthropod monitoring/trapping station.



Top: Figures 3 & 4. Circle new pests so they aren't recounted during future inspections.

Figures 5, 6 & 7. Proper (left) and improper monitor placement (right top & bottom).



Monitoring Tips

- place against walls or windows
- adhere monitors to ground, if needed
- avoid placement where children have easy access
- use an extendable mirror to push and pull monitors out of hard-to-reach areas
- inform teachers of trap placement and reason
- use 20-40 monitors depending on school size

Monitor Placement

- in food storage and general storage areas
- under sinks, food prep areas, and desks
- near floor drains
- in lower panels of serving counters
- behind/under appliances/furniture
- in drawers
- under lockers
- near backpack storage
- near pet food or potted plants
- near boilers or under equipment
- near utility pipes without escutcheons
- anywhere there are cracks or crevices
- place many traps for fine-scale monitoring
- relocate traps that don't catch anything

Pest Vulnerable Areas (PVAs)

Place the majority of your monitors in Pest Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) to maximize your chance of locating pests. PVAs are places in and around buildings that provide food, water/moisture, and shelter for a pest. PVAs are usually areas that are dark, warm, moist, shadowy and have a food source. In schools, the following are prime PVAs. Look for PVAs in your building.

- Kitchen
- Cafeteria
- Food Storage Areas
- Staff Lounge
- Custodian's Storage
- Preschool Rooms
- Kindergarten Rooms
- Art Rooms
- Biology Labs
- Areas with Reported Pests
- Vending Machines
- Home Econ. Rooms
- Boiler Rooms
- Rooms with Plants
- Rooms with Pets
- Cluttered Rooms
- Concession Stands
- Coach's Offices
- Below Lockers
- Stage Areas
- Near Outside Doors
- Pool Areas

WHAT'S THIS PEST?

Uncertain what pests are on your monitoring traps? No problem. Take a picture (in focus) of the unfolded trap and send it to the Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab. They can provide timely identification of pests and help with control solutions. Attach images in an email to:

ryan.davis@usu.edu
435-797-2435

