

Set Up Your IPM Program in Eight Steps

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Purdue University · Department of Entomology · IPM Technical Resource Center

Integrate Pest Management (IPM) is common sense pest control. It relies on pest prevention, monitoring for pest problems, and control methods like traps and bait to eliminate or drastically reduce pesticide use. Using IPM in your facility will control pests and protect the children in your care from the health risks associated with exposure to pests and pesticides – it is also required by law.

These steps will keep you on track as you transition to IPM. To help you with the transition, IPM Training Workshops are available. Call your local Resource & Referral Agency or Safer Pest Control Project 773/878-7378 for details.

IPM Program Checklist:

- _____ 1. Adopt an IPM policy. This policy should state how pests will be managed inside your facility and in outdoor play areas. Your policy should establish a procedure to notify parents and staff if pesticides must be used and create minimum qualifications for a pest control company. Visit www.spcpweb.org/childcare/ and look for 'Sample IPM Policy for Childcares' under resources.
- _____ 2. Designate an IPM Coordinator. This person acts as a liaison with the pest control company. Staff members should report any pest sightings to this person. Recommendations from the pest control technician (for cleaning, repairs, etc) should be relayed by the IPM Coordinator to staff and administrators. Often, the program director or facility manager acts as the IPM Coordinator.
- _____ 3. Educate staff, faculty and parents about IPM program. IPM is a team effort, requiring cooperation among the director, teachers, custodian, maintenance staff, kids and parents. Fact sheets and training workshops and materials are available – call Safer Pest Control Project (773/878-7378).
- _____ 4. Implement 3 steps of pest prevention. The three steps for pest prevention are ongoing tasks – requiring everybody's participation. For details on each step attend an IPM Training Workshop, call your local R & R Agency or Safer Pest Control Project (773/878-7378) for details.
 - _____ a. Keep Pests Out: Perform repairs as needed to prevent pest access to buildings.
 - _____ b. Remove Pests' Food & Water: Review sanitation practices. Sanitation includes kitchen cleaning and maintenance, and waste disposal. Repair leaking pipes and eliminate standing water wherever possible.
 - _____ c. Remove Pest Shelter: Clutter offers shelter for many pests, including rodents, spiders, and cockroaches. Organize clutter and eliminate cardboard. Convert to "box-less storage" as much as possible, particularly in food areas.

- _____ 5. Contract with the right pest control company or take care of these steps yourself. Contract with a pest control company that has IPM experience and knows about the IPM in Childcare Law. They are your best ally in maintaining a pest-free, pesticide-free facility. For help finding a company that can provide IPM call Safer Pest Control Project.
 - _____ a. Have buildings and grounds inspected. Your pest control professional will note evidence of infestations and conditions that contribute to your pest problem. Your technician should make additional recommendations for controlling pests, such as sealing of pest entry points, clutter reduction, and improved sanitation.
 - _____ b. Establish monitoring procedures. Your pest control professional should place pest monitoring traps in all pest prone areas. Staff should be instructed not to move the traps. Pest sightings should be reported to the IPM Coordinator.
 - _____ c. Establish record keeping. Keep the following records: pest sighting logs, monitor trap logs; Service reports from a pest control professional; IPM Recommendations from the pest management professional; Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all pesticides used inside the facility; Work orders for fixing maintenance problems that were contributing to pest problems; Inspection reports of the facility: when hiring a new pest control professional.
 - _____ d. Identify any pests found and choose a control strategy: Control strategies may include improved sanitation, repairs, non-chemical controls and, lastly, pesticide baits.
 - _____ e. Create a system for identifying least-toxic pesticides: This includes a gel or containerized bait. Treatments should be made only to areas showing pest activity and the center director should be informed before any application is made. Notify all parents and staff before using spray pesticides.
- _____ 6. Create an IPM Plan. By establishing tolerance levels and an action plan for each pest, you'll resist the urge to spray and respond in a safer, more constructive manner. You will also be able to clearly demonstrate to your licensing rep that you are in compliance. Samples available at www.spcpweb.org/childcare.
- _____ 7. Set up procedures for notifying parents and staff in writing if pesticides (besides gel bait or containerized bait) are applied.
- _____ 8. Evaluate the program on a regular basis: Work with your pest control company and incorporate feedback from staff to improve the program.

Call Safer Pest Control Project at 773/878-7378 with questions.