

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Basics

IPM can improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of a school's pest control program. IPM can also lower costs associated with exterminator services. The end result that is desired with IPM is the complete removal of any toxic pest control products from our school buildings. It is always preferable to use natural methods of pest eradication such as habitat removal at the building's exterior, elimination of pest food sources inside the building along with more thorough housekeeping procedures, and continual building maintenance that makes it difficult for the pests to get inside.

There are several steps involved in IPM; identification of the pest, toleration level of infestation before action is taken, and the prevention and removal of the pest problem.

The School Children's Health Act of 2006 (G.S. 115C-12) addresses the implementation of IPM programs in North Carolina schools. This legislation spells out notification requirements anytime toxic materials are used on school grounds. Principals must notify students, parents & guardians and staff of their right to receive notification prior to pesticide applications. This notification must be made 72 hours before the applications are scheduled.

Exempt from the 72 hour notification process are the following: antimicrobial cleaners, disinfectants and crack & crevice treatments (baits). Products containing toxic ingredients are rated by the US EPA along a toxicity scale of 1 (most toxic) to 1V (least toxic). Level 1V products are also exempt from the 72 hour notification guidelines. Our policy is that only level 3 and level IV products are used in our facilities.

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