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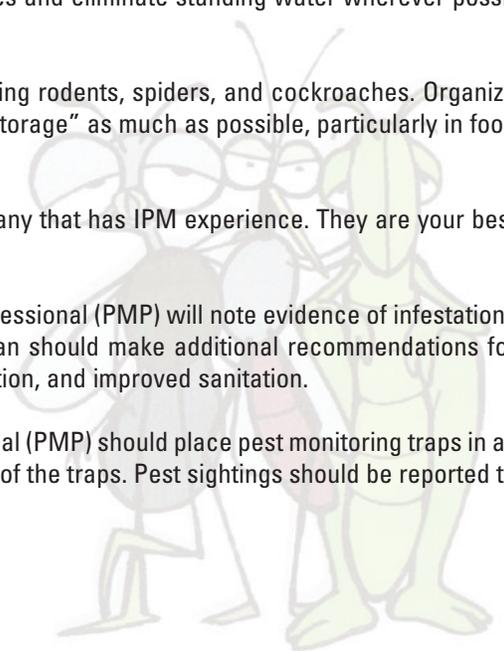
Set Up Your IPM Program in Eight Steps

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is common-sense pest control. It relies on pest prevention, monitoring for pest problems, and control methods like traps, gels and baits to help eliminate or drastically reduce pesticide exposures. Using IPM in your facility will control pests more effectively and protect the children from the health risks associated with exposure to pests and pesticides.

These steps will keep you on track as you transition to IPM. To help you with the transition, IPM Training Workshops are available. Call the Philadelphia School & Community IPM Partnership (PSCIP) at 215-471-2200 Ext. 109 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.pscip.org 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/technician and the Staff. 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 your about IPM program.** IPM is a team effort and requires communication and cooperation between teachers, directors, custodial staff, maintenance staff, children and parents. Encourage parents to use IPM at home. Fact sheets for parents & staff or articles for newsletters are available – *call the Philadelphia School & Community IPM Partnership (PSCIP) at 215-471-2200 Ext. 109.*
- _____ **4. Implement 3 steps of pest prevention.** The three steps for pest prevention are ongoing tasks – requiring everyone's participation. *For details on each step attend an IPM Training Workshop - call the Philadelphia School & Community IPM Partnership (PSCIP) at 215-471-2200 Ext. 109.*
 - _____ **a. Keep Pests Out.** Perform maintenance and repairs as needed to prevent pest access to buildings.
 - _____ **b. Remove Pests' Food & Water.** Review sanitation practices. Sanitation includes kitchen cleaning and maintenance, food storage, and recycling and waste disposal. Repair leaking pipes and eliminate standing water wherever possible.
 - _____ **c. Remove Pests' Shelter.** Clutter offers shelter for many pests, including rodents, spiders, and cockroaches. Organize clutter and eliminate cardboard. Convert to a "cardboard box-less storage" as much as possible, particularly in food areas.
- _____ **5. Contract with the right pest control company.** Contract with a pest control company that has IPM experience. They are your best allies in maintaining a pest-free, pesticide-free facility.
 - _____ **a. Have buildings and grounds inspected.** Your Pest Management Professional (PMP) 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 Management Professional (PMP) should place pest monitoring traps in all pest-prone areas. Staff should be instructed not to move or dispose of the traps. Pest sightings should be reported to the IPM Coordinator.



_____ **c. Establish record keeping.** Your Pest Management Professional (PMP) should provide written service reports, detailing their actions taken for each visit. Keep these reports in your pest control binder for reference. Reports should include recommendations for improving pest prevention inside the facility, and should not include spraying without your knowledge and consent.

_____ **d. Identify any pests found and choose a control strategy.** Control strategies may include improved sanitation, repairs, non-chemical controls and, lastly, pesticide gels and/or baits.

_____ **e. If a pesticide is needed, select the least-hazardous pesticide.** Gel or containerized baits are less hazardous than sprays. Treatments should be made only to areas showing pest activity. Notify all parents and staff before using spray pesticides. All pesticides should only be applied by licensed applicators and never when children are present! It is advised that children not re-enter the treated area for at least seven hours or for as long as it is stated on the product label.

_____ **6. Create an IPM Plan.** By establishing a plan with an action level for each pest in each environment, you'll resist the urge to spray and learn to respond in a safer, more constructive manner. *IPM approaches to common pests are detailed in the "IPM for Pennsylvania Schools: A How to Manual" that can be downloaded at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/agrs82.pdf>. Hard copies cost \$10.00 and can be ordered by calling 1-877-345-0691*

_____ **7. Set up procedures for notifying parents and staff in writing if pesticides other than gels or containerized baits are to be 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 the Philadelphia School & Community IPM Partnership (PSCIP) at 215-471-2200 Ext. 109 with questions when implementing these steps.

