

Traps will tell you where pest “hot spots” and entry ways are.

- Fly swatters work well on individual insects that you can see.
- A vacuum cleaner can also be used to catch insects in hard to reach places. Be sure to discard or empty the vacuum bag to prevent the pests from escaping later.

Using Chemical Pesticides Safely

If pests are still a problem and you need to try direct actions, remember:

- Avoid using foggers and aerosols - you can't control where the chemicals go, and you are more likely to increase exposure by breathing them in. These products can also trigger asthma.
- Choose the least toxic products by reading the active ingredients on the label. Pesticides with boric acid, insect growth regulators (hydroprene), diatomaceous earth or botanical essential oils listed on the label are generally less toxic if used carefully and according to label directions.
- Avoid using concentrated products that require mixing.
- Bait stations and traps that enclose the poison work well in corners and hidden spots and lessen the chance of exposure.
- Using the wrong product for the type of pest you have may result in risks to your health without any benefit.

Remember to Always:

- Read all information on the pesticide label before applying any pesticides
- Follow the label directions exactly
- Keep them out of reach of children and pets

- Store in original containers to avoid later “mistaken identity” of pesticides.

NEED MORE HELP?

- **PA IPM Pest Problem Solver**
<http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/1445.htm>
- **Pesticides & Alternatives**
<http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/1314.htm>
- **Identifying Common Household Insects in Pennsylvania**
<http://resources.cas.psu.edu/ipm/commoninsects.pdf>
- **New York State IPM Program**
<http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu>

CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE:

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Pennsylvania Department of
AGRICULTURE

Pennsylvania Integrated Pest Management



A safe, effective, economical and environmentally-friendly approach to managing pests

The Pennsylvania IPM Program is a collaboration between the Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture aimed at promoting integrated pest management in both agricultural and urban situations. For more information, contact the program at (814) 865-2839, or Web site <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu>.

Integrated Pest Management



WHAT IS IPM?

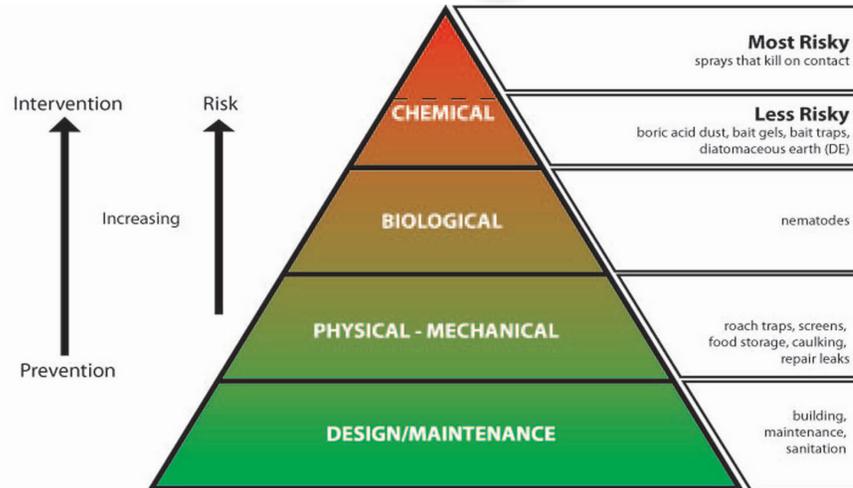
IPM manages pests by combining tactics that are most likely to be safe and effective, including prevention and alternatives to pesticides. Pesticides, if used, should be the least toxic to humans and target only the pest you have.

IPM IS:

- Least hazardous to human health
- Least toxic to non-target organisms
- Most likely to give long-term control
- Prevents pests before they become a problem
- Most cost-effective
- Most site-appropriate

PESTS MAY INCLUDE:

- Ants
- Cockroaches
 - Houseflies
 - Head Lice
 - Wasps and Bees
 - Rats and Mice
 - Weeds
 - Mold
 - Fungus



Pyramid of IPM Tactics

The pyramid of tactics explains some of the different methods used in IPM practices. Think of each level as a drawer full of tools. Design/maintenance methods are lower in risk and focus on prevention of the problem. Try to use tactics on the lowest levels if possible.

IPM STEPS TO PEST CONTROL

Pest Identification

Detecting and positively identifying the pest will help you decide on a plan of action. It can also help determine how severe the problem is. Each pest has different specific needs and habits.



Prevention = Cultural + Physical Tactics

The most important step in IPM is preventing pest problems to begin with. Eliminate what they need to survive, such as food, water and

shelter.

- Prevent pests from entering your home by sealing off all cracks and crevices around windows and pipes with caulking, screening or copper mesh. Make sure doors and door sweeps fit tightly.
- Eliminate sources of food and water - repair water leaks, clean up all spills and crumbs, and don't leave snacks or pet food out over night.
- Clean up potential hiding spaces such as stacks of old newspapers or magazines, bags, boxes and old clothing.
- Place sticky traps along walls and near potential sources of food and water.