

WOOD- DESTROYING PESTS



PENNSSTATE



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Introduction



Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Welcome to the profession of pest management. You may be reading this as your introduction to structural, stored product, and public health pest management, or as a refresher, but this manual can serve as a reference for your future work. As a professional pesticide applicator you have great responsibility for your work, your safety, and the safety of those for whom you work. Safety is most important because the goal of structural, stored product, and public health pest management is to protect lives and property from pests. A key interest in learning is vital for safe, effective pest management. Regular training, updates on pesticide regulations and pest control technology, and refreshers on the basics, such as insect identification, will support and advance your career in pest management. Good customer service is vital. Clear, honest, and competent communication with your clients will give them confidence in your ability to solve their problems. It also reduces your risks of legal troubles. Understanding pest biology, pesticide formulations and uses, and pesticide laws and regulations will make you, the pest management professional (PMP), a valuable member of any team.

The key to structural pest management is the concept of integrated pest management (IPM). This can be defined as a way of combining tools to manage pests in an economical and effective way. IPM also reduces the environmental and human health risks associated with pests and the means of

controlling them. IPM is not product-based. It is a stepwise plan of action that may or may not include the use of pesticides. IPM relies heavily on the knowledge obtained through learning, inspection, monitoring, and record keeping.

Beneficial Aspects of Wood-destroying Insects

Wood-destroying insects provide a necessary function in ecosystems by changing fallen trees and other vegetative matter back into soil. Were it not for the termites, other insects, and fungi, decomposition of dead trees in the forest would take far longer than it does now and the forests would be impenetrable with masses of tree trunks, branches, and leaves.

Many insects and fungi attack trees and use them in various ways for food, shelter, or larval development. If a tree is sawn into boards, it may still be susceptible to attack by these organisms. Humans attempt to disguise or embellish the wood they use by painting it or covering it with variety of materials or by treating it with chemicals that add insecticidal or fungicidal materials to increase its decay resistance.

All of these attempts at disguising wood are fairly successful but temporary. If paint peels away, exposing untreated wood, some kind of wood-damaging pest may attack it.