

# WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT SCHOOL IPM?

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## SCHOOLS AND PESTS

- Pests in schools affect proper day-to-day operations.
- Many schools follow calendar-based pesticide sprays, regardless of pest presence.
- Ineffective pest management practices often result in unnecessary exposure to pesticides, unnecessary expenses and underutilization of school spaces.



## PROBLEMS CAUSED BY PESTS AT SCHOOL

- Unhealthy learning environments with hazards from pests and pesticides have profound effects on human health.
- For example, mice and cockroaches produce asthma-triggering allergens.
- Over-reliance on pesticides exposes children and staff to dangerous chemicals.

## CHALLENGES TO SCHOOL IPM ADOPTION

- Misconceptions or lack of awareness about IPM, e.g., IPM is costly!
- Lack of practical IPM training.
- Inability to evaluate efficacy of prevailing pest control practices.
- School budget cuts.
- Frequent staff turnover.
- Absence of supporting legislation.



## HOW DOES IPM WORK?

### EXAMPLE 1: DOOR SWEEPS

- Principle: Pest exclusion.
- Stops crawling pests from getting indoors.
- Can reduce pest complaints by up to 65%.



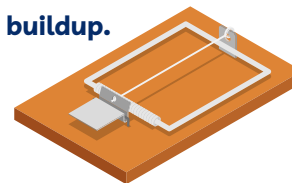
### EXAMPLE 2: CLEANING FLOOR DRAINS

- Principle: Sanitation.
- Stops drain flies, house flies, and rodents from getting established.
- Can prevent bacteria, including *Listeria*, carried by pests from drains to food and food preparation surfaces.



### EXAMPLE 3: TRAPS

- Principle: Monitoring.
- Informs and alerts about pest presence.
- Can help to take steps proactively to remedy pest-favorable conditions and prevent pest population buildup.



"The state of our schools is a national emergency, one that compromises the precious opportunity of all our children and the very future of American prosperity."

Filardo M. 2021. 2021 State of Our Schools: America's PK-12 Public School Facilities 2021. Washington, D.C.: 21st Century School Fund.

## SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN

- Children spend the major part of their day at school.
- Over and above academics, schools offer opportunities for interaction with peers, team work, developing life skills and overall well-being.
- Schools provide the foundation and environment for children's growth and development, molding our future citizens.

## IPM IS THE SOLUTION!

- What is IPM?
- **IPM or integrated pest management is a sensible, effective and environment-friendly way to solve pest problems.**
- In IPM, pests are managed by the most economical means with the least possible risk to people, property and the environment.



## SCHOOLS AND SOCIETY

- Schools keep children engaged during the day, enabling parents and guardians of school-age children to pursue their jobs and other activities.
- Schools serve as meeting places and community resource centers during crisis situations and many other functions, so are valuable to all community members.



## IPM IS NOT MORE WORK

- IPM practices are part of daily tasks.
- Just think "pests".
- Trash management = no food.
- Repair leaky faucet = no water.
- De-clutter = no shelter.



## BENEFITS OF IPM

- Proactive. Prevention is better than cure!
- Reduction in pest complaints, pesticide applications and costs.
- Better indoor air quality
- Reduction in asthma incidence
- Reduction in student absence
- Improvement in student scholastic achievements.
- Improvements in instaff work performance.



## IPM DURING A PANDEMIC?

- "Back to school" means increased chemical exposure students and staff due to increased disinfectant use. Disinfectants are pesticides.
- An IPM approach results in the elimination of ineffective and unnecessary pesticide use, which will be critical to the safe and sustainable provision of in-person school.



**ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN SAFE AND HEALTHY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS CAN HELP SCHOOLS TO PRACTICE IPM. WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

### School IPM Resources:

University of Arizona School IPM <https://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/schoolIPM.html>  
EPA School IPM <https://www.epa.gov/ipm>  
IPM Institute of North America <https://ipminstitute.org/school-ipm-directory/>  
Pest Defense for Healthy Schools <https://pestdefenseforhealthyschools.org/>

# IPM IS THE BEST WAY TO MANAGE PESTS IN SCHOOLS.