

# Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Faculty

## What Is IPM?

Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, is a strategy of managing pests using multiple control tactics that provide the best control with the least cost and environmental impact. IPM is based on thorough knowledge of the pests and the technologies used to control them, and can be performed by anyone with proper training. A good IPM program attempts to make schools less hospitable to pests by modifying the environment, like improving sanitation, and eliminating pest harborage sites, along with using the lowest impact pesticides as necessary. Managing risks from pests and risks from the pesticides used to control them are top priorities under an IPM program.



## It's the Law!

**Texas law requires** all school districts to have an integrated pest management program (IPM) and a designated IPM Coordinator. The law requires all Texas public schools to use less toxic pesticides and requires licensing of all pesticide applicators on school district property

**Childhood exposure to pesticides is linked to asthma and other health problems.**

## How Can Students, Teachers, and Staff Help in IPM?

1. **Learn about IPM.** The IPM program will be more successful when students, teachers, and staff know about IPM and its benefits.
2. **Clean up.** Cleaning up regularly removes the food, water, and shelter that pests need to survive. Pests are attracted to any place that offers food, water, or hiding places such as cabinets, drawers, lockers, cubbies, and the cages of classroom pets. Dispose of trash promptly and recycle properly to keep classrooms clean and pest free.
3. **Store food in pest-proof containers.** Store food, drinks, and snacks in pest-proof containers with tight lids or in sealable plastic bags. Do not leave animal feed in paper bags. Transfer it to a metal, glass, or plastic container that can be tightly sealed.
4. **Report and record pest problems.** Report and record in the school pest log any pests sighted or any conditions conducive to pests. Look for leaking faucets, uncollected trash, unsealed cracks and crevices, and broken windows or screens--as pests can get in and find shelter.
5. **Do not spray for pests.** Spraying is unlikely to solve the problem and will interfere with the IPM program. Call the school IPM coordinator for help with a pest problem.

## Pesticide Exposure

- ◆ Studies show that children's developing systems are at greater risk than adults to the effects of pesticide exposure.
- ◆ Kids often crawl or play on surfaces that have been treated with pesticides, increasing their risk of exposure.

**Everyone has a role in IPM to prevent and manage pests in and around schools!**

**Teachers, staff, and students should NEVER take pesticide application into their own hands.**

## Teacher Checklist

- Reduce clutter to eliminate living areas for pests.
- Store all edible items in airtight containers. Edible items include food, edible art and science supplies, pet food, etc.
- Make sure all trash receptacles are emptied at the end of each day. If waste is generated that cannot be contained call for help with immediate removal.
- Pests hitchhike; keep student's coats and backpacks in designated places with sticky monitoring traps close by.
- Clean up any accidental spills and food debris that occurs during the day. Ants can find food or drink spills in minutes.

## Student Checklist

- Report pests or evidence of pests to teachers, so they can enter the information into a pest sighting log.
- Do not disturb monitoring traps.
- Keep coats and backpacks in designated areas.
- Store lunches and snacks in sealed food containers. Many pests can eat through regular wrappers or zip lock bags and will find your snacks in desks, cubbies or lockers.
- Empty clothing from cubbies or lockers every Friday. Mice forage for nesting material as well as food.



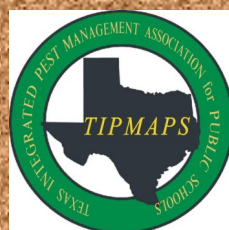
"Acceptable Pest Thresholds"

IPM uses "action thresholds" which are based on acceptable pest thresholds. Action thresholds vary by pest, by location, by geographic location (east Texas versus west Texas), or by season. When pest levels exceed acceptable pest thresholds then your IPM Coordinator takes suitable action to control the pest. This is why timely pest sighting reporting is essential for a successful IPM program!

**Cultural Pest Control Methods** suppress pest problems by minimizing the conditions they need to live (water, shelter, food).

**Sanitation is the removal or cleaning of sources of pest infestation.**

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION



For more information, contact your IPM Coordinator

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_