

HIRING A PEST MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL

If you do hire a pest control company, choose one that offers IPM services. They should inspect your facility thoroughly before they do any treatment. Their service/contract should include checking for pests, record keeping, and providing a plan for what they will do for any pests discovered. Make sure the company uses prevention first and only uses lower risk pesticides for stubborn pest problems. Have them use bait stations and traps instead of sprays so that no one is exposed to pesticides.

For further information about IPM or the Healthy Schools Act, please visit the Department of Pesticide Regulation's child care IPM Web site at: www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/childcare or contact Dr. Belinda Messenger at bmessenger@cdpr.ca.gov or 916 324 4077.



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IPM

INTEGRATED PEST
MANAGEMENT

KEEP PESTS OUT OF YOUR CHILD CARE CENTER. IT'S EASY.



DO YOU HAVE PESTS IN YOUR CHILD CARE CENTER?

Your child care program is full of surprises, including uninvited guests like ants, spiders, mice and rats. We can never get rid of pests totally, so keeping pests out is the best way to protect your child care center. The better you clean your facility, the less likely you are to have pests. Everyone, including the center director, teachers, assistants and custodians can play an important role in keeping pests away.

KEEP PESTS AWAY BY:



KEEP PESTS OUT

Don't let them inside your center

- Make sure door and window screens don't have holes
- Install door sweeps



KEEP THE BUILDING CLEAN

Don't give pests food and water

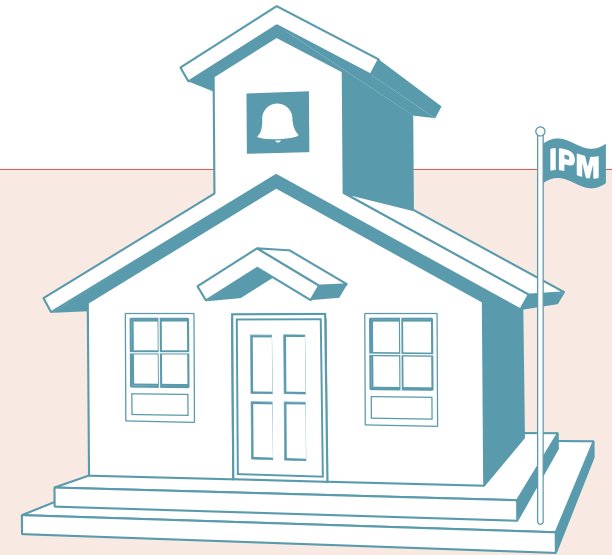
- Clean up food and water spills right away
- Store food in tightly sealed containers



GET RID OF CLUTTER

Don't give pests a hiding place

- Organize toys and art supplies
- Get rid of waste paper and cardboard



IPM

WHAT IS IPM?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a way to deal with pests like ants and mice without using a lot of pesticides, if any. Many pest problems can be taken care of without spraying pesticides.

IPM INCLUDES



FINDING OUT IF YOU HAVE PESTS AND WHAT KIND.

This will help you decide how to get rid of them. For help, go to the UC Statewide IPM Program at; www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/.

USING NON-CHEMICAL METHODS.

Such as vacuuming, cleaning, sealing cracks and holes in the building, and clearing plants away from the side of buildings.

USING TRAPS AND BAIT STATIONS.

Least hazardous pesticides, such as gel baits and bait stations, should only be used when and where pests continue to be present and all other methods have failed.

WRITING DOWN ON A CALENDAR WHEN PESTS ARE SEEN.

This will help you to decide if the problem was temporary and is already gone, or if it really needs action.

WHY CHOOSE IPM



LOWER RISK

Pesticides are designed to kill pests. Avoiding or limiting their use in child care centers reduces potential exposure to these chemicals.

EASIER

IPM is a common sense approach to managing pests. You don't need to have special training to use IPM methods. Managing pests can be as simple as deep cleaning and sealing cracks and crevices.

CHEAPER

You use pesticides only when they're needed. Many IPM tools are reusable (traps) or are already used for cleaning (mops and microfiber cloths).

MORE EFFECTIVE

IPM works better than just spraying pesticides to prevent and manage pest problems. It is a long-term solution, rather than a quick-fix.