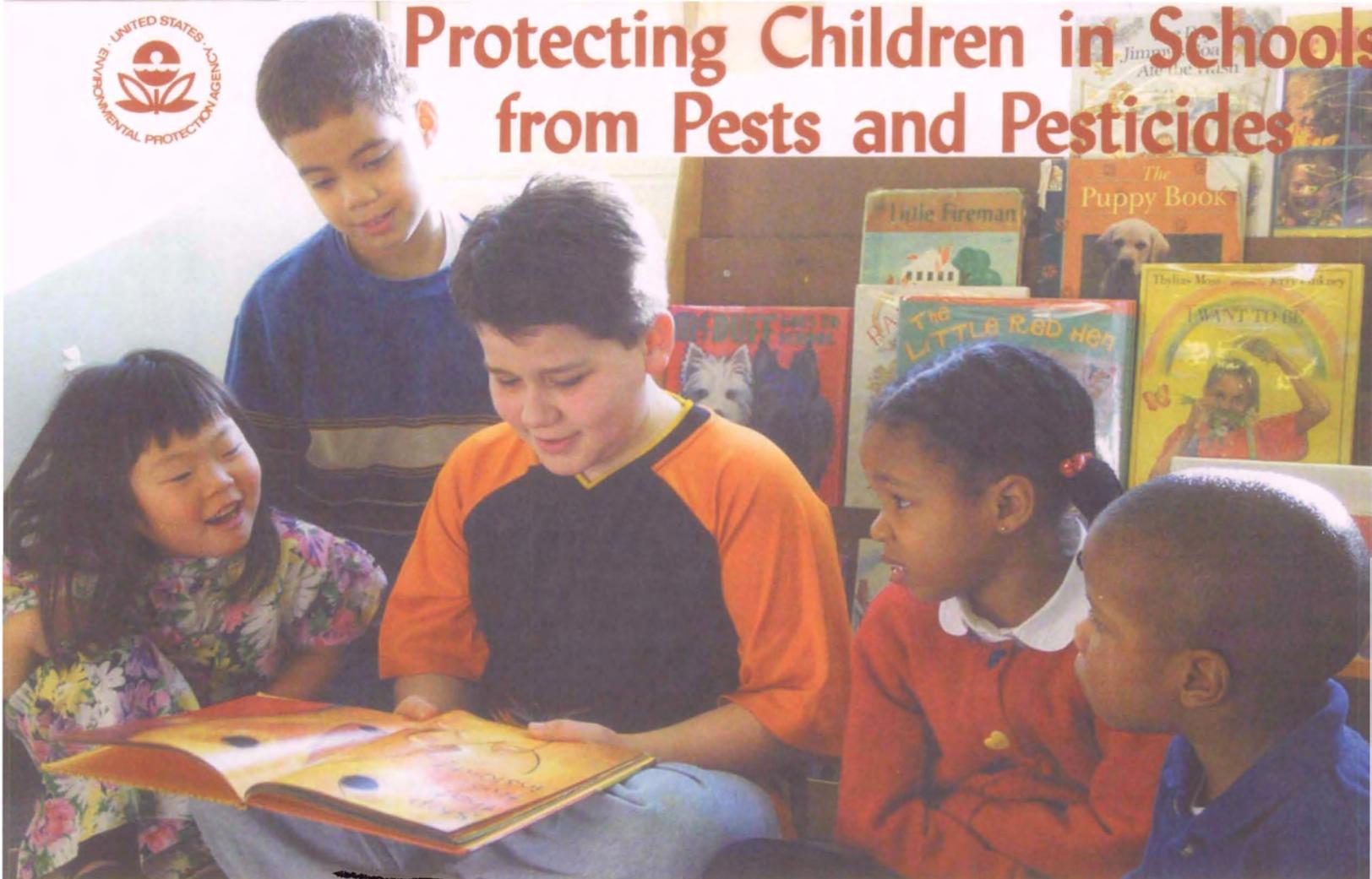




Protecting Children in Schools from Pests and Pesticides



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IPM in Schools: Success Stories

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sees protecting children's health as one of its highest priorities. EPA is helping schools understand and implement IPM by distributing printed publications and awarding grants to start IPM programs that demonstrate success. Here are some examples of successful IPM demonstrations.

"Monroe County, Indiana, achieved a 92 percent reduction in pesticide use, enabling them to also direct their cost savings to hire a district-wide coordinator to oversee pest management in the schools. As a result of this achievement, Monroe County was awarded the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention."

John Carter, Director of Planning, Monroe County
Community Schools Corporation, Indiana

"IPM is a reasonable, commonsense, good maintenance and sanitation practice. Not only is it the right thing to do environmentally, it is healthier for children and staff. IPM does not have to be burdensome to be done correctly; monitoring can mean putting out sticky traps to find out if you really have a pest problem. IPM has been easy, cost effective, and successful at controlling both indoor and outdoor pests."

Sue Kamuda, Facilities Service Coordinator, Hinsdale, Illinois

"Our IPM program reduced pesticide use 90 percent between 1988 and 1990. Pesticide use has been cut from 5,000 applications in 1985 to none four years later, saving the school district \$1,800 per school and \$30,000 at the food service warehouse."

Richard Stack, IPM Administrator, Montgomery
County Public Schools, Maryland

"In the Visto de las Cruces School in California, pest management costs went from \$1,740 a year to \$270 (plus labor) for two years."

Phil Boise, IPM / Agronomy Programs Manager,
Santa Barbara, California



"The Kyrene School District reduced pesticide applications by 90 percent and kept pest populations below 85 percent of their original levels by using IPM. Due to the overwhelming success, their IPM program was expanded to all the Kyrene district schools in spring 2001 (27 schools)."

Stan Peterson, Kryene School District Facilities Manager, Arizona

Here is How You Can Get Started

There are several resources available where you can learn more about IPM, or get the tools to start an IPM program at your school. Below are some Web sites that we recommend you bookmark. We have also included a detachable bookmark that can further serve you as a reference.

• **EPA's IPM in Schools Web site** provides fact sheets, tool kits, information on IPM workshops, IPM grants, partnerships, other links, and more.
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm>

The site also provides an online copy of the popular EPA booklet, "Pest Control in the School Environment: Adopting IPM."
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/brochure>

• **The University of Florida's IPM in Schools Web site** provides a wealth of valuable, free, useful information for school administrators, staff members, pest managers, and parents to start an IPM program.
<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu>

• **EPA-supported Technical Resource Centers for IPM in schools and daycares:** (The following centers have been created to provide tools, training, and technical support for schools and daycare centers to start an IPM program. Training opportunities, IPM principles, and specific management techniques are available for custodial and maintenance staff.)

Purdue University's IPM Technical Resource Center serves only Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
<http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/outreach/schoolipm>
1-877-668-8IPM (1-877-668-8476)

Texas A&M University's IPM Technical Resource Center serves only Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.
<http://schoolipm.tamu.edu>
1-877-747-6872

• **EPA's School IPM Directory** provides specific State contacts for more information, fact sheets, manuals, training, and more.
<http://www.epa.gov/reg5foia/pest/ipm/index.html>

• **Video: Integrated Pest Management in Schools (A Better Method)** explains in simple language what IPM is and how to get a program started.
312-641-5575 or <http://sppcweb.org>

• **The ABCs of IPM: A Modular Video Training Course** is available from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.
<http://TCEbookstore.org> (click on insects)

How Do You Know if Your School Is REALLY Using IPM?

IPM is:

- An **effective and environmentally sensitive approach** to pest management.
- A **program** that relies on a combination of commonsense practices.
- A **management strategy** based on communication and education, and supported by a committed and empowering school administration.
- A **partnership** between the school community (including concerned parents) and a qualified pest management professional who can both implement and communicate about IPM.
- **Elimination or reduction of the reasons** that insects, rodents, and plants become pests.
- **Knowledge** of when and how to remedy pest problems.
- **Prevention** of pest entry into school facilities.
- **Integration** of cultural, mechanical, and lowest-impact chemical control technologies.



Examples of IPM Practices:

- Vegetation, shrubs, and wood mulch should be kept at least one foot away from structures.
- Cracks and crevices in walls, floors, and pavement are either filled or eliminated.
- Lockers and desks are emptied and thoroughly cleaned at least twice yearly.
- Food-contaminated dishes, utensils, surfaces are cleaned by the end of each day.
- Garbage cans and dumpsters are cleaned regularly.
- Litter is collected and disposed of properly at least once a week.
- The problem or pest is identified before taking action.
- Fertilizers are applied several times (e.g., spring, summer, fall) during the year, rather than one heavy application.
- If pesticides are necessary, spot treatments are used rather than area-wide applications.

Pesticides Pose Potential Risks in Schools

Your school community may be exposed to pests as well as the pesticides used to control these pests. Pesticides can help control pests but they need to be used carefully. Children may be more sensitive to pesticides than adults. Young children, especially, may have different exposures than adults--they can encounter pesticides by crawling, exploring, or hand-to-mouth activities.

Since children spend so much of their day at school, you have an opportunity to create a safer learning environment for them. You can reduce their exposure to potentially harmful pests and to the pesticides used to control these pests.

Is There a SAFER Way to Control Pests?

School administrators and others who have decision-making responsibilities for pest management in and around school buildings and grounds should know that safer options exist.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a safer, and usually less costly, option for effective pest management in the school community. A school IPM program employs commonsense strategies to reduce sources of food, water, and shelter for

pests in your school buildings and grounds. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management strategies, including careful use of pesticides when necessary.

Common Pests in School Settings



Your school may be providing food, water, and shelter to pests. Some pests common in schools can harm both children and adults.

- Flies and cockroaches may spread disease.
- Cockroaches can cause allergies and asthma attacks.
- Yellow jacket stings are painful and can be life-threatening to those with allergies.
- Spiders may inflict painful bites and some may pose a health risk.
- Mice may contaminate food, trigger asthma attacks, and cause structural damage.
- Termites cause structural damage.

Other pests may not pose an immediate health threat or damage to the structure but are often controlled for aesthetic or other reasons. For example:

- Weeds may invade playing fields or playgrounds.
- Head lice outbreaks may occur among students.
- Ants may swarm in hallways or classrooms.
- Fruit flies may gather in kitchens.

What Some Professionals Are Saying About IPM:

"Professional educators know that communication and education are required to influence behavior. Successfully implementing IPM means influencing individuals whose behaviors allow pest problems to continue or occur in school settings. Drawing back on my first years in graduate school, I learned that pest management is people management."

Dr. Marc Lame, a nationally recognized IPM expert, entomologist, and professor at Indiana University

"In managing pests, the emphasis should be placed on minimizing the use of broad-spectrum chemicals, and on maximizing the use of sanitation, biological controls, and selective methods of application."

American Public Health Association

"A healthy school environment is essential. All students and staff have a right to learn and work in a healthy school environment, safe from air pollution, radiation, sound and mechanical stress, and chemical exposures."

National Association of School Nurses

"National PTA supports efforts [IPM implementation] at the federal, state, and local levels to eliminate the environmental health hazards caused by pesticide use in and around schools."

National Parent Teacher Association



IPM in Schools Resources:

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- University of Florida's IPM in Schools Program
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- Purdue University's IPM Technical Resource Center
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1-877-747-6872
<http://schoolipm.tamu.edu>
- EPA's School IPM Directory
<http://www.epa.gov/reg5foia/pest/ipm/index.html>



"Childhood exposure to pesticides is an environmental health risk facing children today. We are focused on helping communities address this problem."

**Christie Whitman
Administrator**



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