

Integrated Pest Management

Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems to people, property and the environment. Pesticides can also pose risks to people, property, and the environment. It is therefore the policy of the Dubuque Community School District to incorporate integrated pest management (IPM) procedures into the District maintenance program for control of indoor and outdoor pest problems.

Definitions

Pests are populations of living organism (animals, plants, or microorganism) that interfere with use of school facilities for human purposes. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property or the environment.

Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, is a strategy that focuses on long term prevention or suppression of pest populations using a combination of tactics that minimize the impact of control activities on human health and the health of other, non-target organisms.

An IPM plan is a set of detailed procedures describing how particular pest problems will be avoided or handled by staff.

Development of IPM Plans

The District will appoint an IPM coordinator whose duties include the development and implementation of a pest management plan. Objectives of the IPM plan will include:

- Elimination of significant threats caused by pests to the health and safety of students, staff or the public.
- Prevention of loss or damage to school structures or property by pests.
- Protection of environmental quality inside and outside school buildings.

Essential IPM Principles

Pest management plans will be based on the following principles:

- Knowledge of the pest's identity, biology and life cycles will establish the basis for selection of appropriate control actions.
- Monitoring of pest numbers and record keeping will be used to identify pest and sites requiring control action.
- Unacceptable numbers of pests will be determined prior to applying chemical controls, so that monitoring results can be used to objectively determine when control actions are needed.

- Control tactics will be selected after consideration of the full variety of control options. Such options will include all practical non-chemical, biological, and chemical control measures.
- Educational activities will be conducted to enhance the cooperation and understanding among staff, students, and the public.

Pesticide use in School Facilities

Decisions concerning whether or not pesticides should be applied in a given situation will be based on a review of all available options. Efforts will be made to avoid the use of pesticides by adequate pest proofing of facilities, good sanitation practices, selection of pest-resistant plant materials, and appropriate horticultural practices.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet pest management objectives, the least-hazardous material, adequate for the job, will be chosen.

Cooperation with IPM Coordinator

The District will provide administrative support to assist the IPM coordinator in developing an IPM program that relies on minimal pesticide use. Such support will include efforts to promptly address any structural, horticultural, or sanitation changes recommended by the coordinator to reduce or prevent pest problems. Furthermore, the District will assist the coordinator in developing and delivering materials and programs for staff, students, and the public to educate them about the importance of good sanitation and pest control.

Cooperation with Regulatory Agencies

All pesticide storage, transportation, and application will be conducted in accordance with the requirement of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 United States Code 136 et seq.), Environmental Protection Agency regulations in 40 CFR, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, School District policies and procedures, and local ordinances.

Licensing and Training for Pesticide Applicators

No person shall apply, store, or dispose of any pesticide on School District property without an appropriate pesticide applicator license.

All pesticide applicators will be trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides approved for use in the School District. All applicators must comply with the IPM policy and follow appropriate regulations and label precautions when using pesticides in or around school facilities.

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Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Guidelines

1. The Manager of Buildings and Grounds will serve as the IPM Coordinator.
2. The building principal is responsible for ensuring compliance with guidelines.
3. All “pest problems” should be reported to the Head Custodian.
4. Clutter:
 - Eliminate clutter, cardboard boxes, etc., throughout the building.
 - Schedule supervised student locker clean-out at least two times per year.
5. Food:
 - Eliminate food and water sources that pests can feed on.
 - Store opened food items in tightly sealed plastic containers.
 - Limit eating in classrooms.
 - Eliminate toasters, refrigerators, ovens, microwaves, coffee pots in classrooms.
 - Designate eating areas in the building.
6. Furniture: Eliminate upholstered furniture, couches, chairs, pillows, bean bags, and cushions.
7. Plants: Limit the number of plants in the classroom.
8. Pets: Secure principal permission for classroom pets.