

Before Treatment Begins

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a Texas law. Certain criteria must be met before applications can occur.

Proper identification

- If it is a roach, the pest professional must identify the kind.

Threshold

- Are there enough of the specific kind to justify a treatment.
- Does the threshold meet the district IPM plan?

Integrate housekeeping

- What measures can be taken to eliminate the pest without a chemical treatment?
- Is there food and water attracting the pest?
- Can the area be cleaned and the food/water source removed to eliminate pest.

Least toxic

- Is there a preventive treatment that can be made; such as screens (building modifications) or gels and baits.

Documentation

- Each step must be documented.
- Prior to an application a 48 hour prior posting must be given.
- In the event that a school is occupied by a student or staff with a chemical sensitivity, prior arrangements must be made with that person.

IPM STRATEGIES – Katy ISD Pest Management Plan

Pest prevention measures will be incorporated into existing structures. Such prevention measures will reduce the need for pesticide applications and include sanitation, structural repairs and using physical and mechanical barriers such as air barriers and exhaust screens. Specific strategies for District facilities are provided below.

IPM Strategies for Indoor Sites

Typical Indoor Pests Include:

Mice, rats, cockroaches, ants, flies, spiders, termites, bats, silverfish, snakes

Entry Ways (doorways, windows, plumbing and electrical penetrations)

- Keep doors shut when not in use
- Place weather stripping on doors and windows
- Caulk and seal openings in walls
- Install or repair double doors
- Install or replace damaged thresholds
- Keep shrubs and trees trimmed away from buildings

Classrooms and Offices (classrooms, science laboratories, administrative offices, auditoriums, gymnasiums, hallways)

- Limit food and beverage consumption to designated areas.
- Permit food and beverages in classrooms on an intermittent basis, prohibit food or beverages to be stored or left unattended.
- Keep indoor plants healthy and to a minimum. Do not over water.
- Store animal foods in science laboratories and classrooms in tightly sealed plastic or metal containers. If animals are a necessity, cages must be cleaned regularly.
- Keep lockers and desks free of food and beverages.
- Vacuum carpeted areas frequently.
- Refer students with head lice to the school nurse.
- Remove all cluttered boxes and papers
- Change liners in trash receptacles daily and wash and sanitize the receptacles periodically or as needed.

Food Preparation and Serving Areas (cafeterias, classroom kitchens, teacher lounges, snack areas)

- Store food in containers. Containers should have tight fitting lids and be made of plastic, glass or metal.
- Waste should be removed from the area at the end of each day and trash receptacle liners changed daily.
- Maintain vents, windows and floor drains.
- Remove and discard all cardboard shipping and storage containers.
- Eliminate food and water sources that attract pests by removing food debris, repairing dripping faucets and drying wet areas.
- Improve cleaning practices by promptly cleaning food preparation equipment and removing grease accumulation from vents, ovens and stoves.
- Remove all cluttered boxes and paper products.
- Capture rodents using mechanical controls or glue traps.

Rooms and areas with extensive plumbing (bathrooms, sink areas, classrooms, science laboratories, shower rooms)

- Repair plumbing leaks promptly.
- Dry spills within 24 hours to prevent a water source for insects.
- Seal pipe penetrations through walls and floors.
- Avoid storing paper products near water areas.
- When possible install Empasse termite protection during construction.

Maintenance Areas (boiler rooms, mechanical rooms, custodian rooms)

- Prohibit food in these areas.
- Rinse mops and buckets thoroughly after each use and allow them to air dry. (Refer to Reference Operations Procedural Manual)
- Use plastic liners in trash receptacles and replace them frequently.
- Keep areas as clean and dry as possible and remove debris.

IPM Strategies for Outdoor Sites

Typical Outdoor Pests and Disease Include:

Mice, rats, ants, beetle grubs, sod webworms, aphids, brown patch, weeds

Playgrounds, parking lots, athletic fields, loading docks, dumpster areas

- Secure lids on trash receptacles and empty them frequently.
- Provide adequate drainage from structures.
- Maintain a mowing height to discourage weed growth.

- Maintain areas that could harbor weeded areas, unused tires and equipment.

Ornamental Shrubs and Trees

- Apply proper fertilizer at the appropriate times.
- Prune branches to improve plant growth and prevent access by pests to structures.
- Attempt to use native plants that are disease and pest resistant.
- Identify pests correctly and use the appropriate treatment.

Weeds

- Apply Round-Up to visible weeds on sidewalks, parking lots, fences, and curbs.
- Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to sidewalks, parking lots, fences, and curbs.

An important part of IPM strategy is the judicious use of pesticides. An appropriate application uses the least toxic and most effective techniques and material. Pesticides should be applied only by a licensed applicator and only when occupants are not present in the area.

Although the EPA registers pesticides for the use in the United States, a registered product does not mean that it is safe all of the time under all conditions. Licensed applicators are trained to know how to handle and apply chemicals in order to minimize exposure to building occupants. The following recommendations will be followed by the District licensed applicators in order to minimize exposure to chemicals:

Proper identification of pest problems.

Use of non-chemical management strategies whenever practical.

Preferential use of least toxic chemical controls when pesticides are needed.

Read and follow all label directions.

Choose a pesticide that is labeled for the specific site and target pest.

Use a spot treatment method when possible and treat only the infested area.

Place baits and mechanical traps in accessible areas.

In accordance with Texas SPCB regulations, any area treated with a pesticide will remain unoccupied for at least twelve (12) hours, or in accordance with Texas SPCB laws, whichever is longer.

Monitoring programs to determine when pests are present or when pest problems are severe enough to justify corrective action.