

## HOW DO I USE IPM?

- 1 KEEP PESTS OUT:** If a pest can't get inside - it won't be a problem. Caulk or cement cracks and holes on the outside of the building. Install doorsweeps and avoid propping doors open. Screen windows. Place dumpsters far from the backdoor. Inspect and unload deliveries. Remove cardboard boxes - roaches love cardboard!
- 2 REMOVE PESTS' FOOD AND WATER:** Good sanitation is a great way to prevent pests! Clean all the way to the corners - occasionally move equipment and shelves to get at hard to reach spaces. Store food in plastic, pest-proof containers. Repair leaky pipes and remove standing water.
- 3 REMOVE PESTS' SHELTER:** Clutter, cardboard and nooks and crannies provide quiet places for pests to eat, sleep and reproduce. Get rid of the clutter! Seal holes in the walls and cracks along baseboards. Use shelving that is easy to clean under.
- 4 MONITOR FOR PEST PROBLEMS:** Place monitoring traps (a.k.a. insect sticky traps) in kitchens, bathrooms, pantries, classrooms and storage closets. A professional pest control company can help you monitor for pests.
- 5 TREAT EXISTING PEST PROBLEMS:** STOP routine pesticide spraying. Spray pesticides should not be used without notifying parents and employees first. Use traps and insect bait instead and hire a pest control company that has experience with IPM.

## WORKING WITH A PEST CONTROL COMPANY

A good pest control company - experienced with IPM - is your partner in pest control. Are you getting IPM? Here's how to find out.

### Call the company.

Ask for a written description of their IPM Services.

It should include:

- Regular inspections
- Regular service reports
- IPM recommendations and advice
- Use of insecticide baits NOT sprays

Does it list routine use of sprays?

Find another company!

### Talk with a pest control technician.

Is he/she familiar with IPM and their company's IPM Services? Discuss current pest problems and their causes. Be present during all service visits. Ask how they plan to get your permission if they choose to use pesticides.

**Keep all information in your pest management binder.**

### Request detailed service reports and IPM recommendations.

Follow the advice of your technician for preventing pests. Keep old service reports and recommendations in your pest control binder for three years.

### Hire a cooperative, knowledgeable technician.

Visit [www.nopesticides.org](http://www.nopesticides.org) for a list of questions to ask pest management companies or call 713-523-2827 for guidance. Interview several candidates. Ask for references.

*For more information about hiring a pest control company or to learn more about IPM go to <http://schoolipm.tamu.edu>.*

## WHY USE IPM?

Pesticides are poisons, and children are particularly vulnerable to them. IPM controls pests while limiting children's exposure to dangerous toxins.

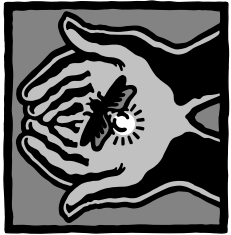
IPM works better because it removes things that invite pests in and encourage them to stay. If spraying pesticides really worked - why would the pests keep coming back?



**TEXANS FOR  
ALTERNATIVES  
TO PESTICIDES**  
SAVING THE PLANET ONE YARD AT A TIME.

## YOUR CHECKLIST FOR AN IPM PROGRAM

- Adopt an IPM Policy and Create an IPM Plan - resources available at [www.nopesticides.org](http://www.nopesticides.org)
  - STOP routine pesticide spraying.
  - Identify what attracts pests and how to safeguard your childcare center.
- Designate an on-staff IPM Coordinator.
- Create a system to notify all building occupants between 2 and 5 days in advance of any treatment, including baits. All pesticide applications, including baits, **MUST** be done by a licensed applicator.
- Educate staff about IPM.
  - Visit [www.nopesticides.org](http://www.nopesticides.org) or call 713-523-2827 for assistance.
- Learn what others are doing at [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org), [www.spcpweb.org](http://www.spcpweb.org) and [www.chej.org](http://www.chej.org)
- Prevent pests.
  - Keep pests out - caulk cracks, seal holes, use screens and doorsweeps.
  - Remove pests' food and water - securely package foodstuff, locate garbage bins. away from the building, keep shrubs away from structures and eliminate standing water.
  - Remove pests' shelter - eliminate cardboard and clutter.
- Hire a pest control company that knows IPM, or handle these steps yourself.
  - Inspect facility.
  - Monitor for pest problems.
  - Keep proper records (including service reports, IPM recommendations, pest sighting logs and locations of traps and bait stations).
  - ID pests and use least-toxic controls.
- Evaluate the IPM program and make improvements.
- If you apply pesticides, follow these rules.
  - Notify all parents, guardians and staff before using pesticides.
  - Do not apply pesticides when children are present.
  - Remove all toys and items mouthed or handled by kids.
  - Keep children out of the treated area for at least two hours or as long as specified on the pesticide label.
- Call Texans for Alternatives to Pesticides 713-523-2827 if you need assistance.



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[www.nopesticides.org](http://www.nopesticides.org)

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**...protecting children in your  
care from pesticides.**

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## HOW DO I PROTECT CHILDREN FROM PESTICIDES?

- STOP routinely spraying inside your home or childcare center
- Notify parents and staff in writing before using pesticides
- Use IPM to control pests
- Never spray pesticides with children present
- Remove toys and other items handled by children before spraying
- Know Texas Laws that govern the use of pesticides around children.  
[www.spcbtx.org](http://www.spcbtx.org)

**WHAT IS IPM?**  
*Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a safer alternative to routine pesticide spraying. It prevents pests and reduces pesticide use.*



# PEST CONTROL IN CHILDCARE CENTERS

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

**PESTICIDES  
ARE  
POISONS**

*Childhood exposure to pesticides can lead to asthma, cancer and developmental delays*

*Pests — like mice and cockroaches — can spread disease and may cause asthma*

*IPM controls pests and is safer than spraying pesticides*

*Texas Laws govern the use of pesticides around children.  
[www.spcbtx.org](http://www.spcbtx.org)*