

The Benefits of Integrated Pest Management

Pests, like mice and roaches, spread disease, contaminate food, upset customers and damage property.

Over the years, many Americans relied on one strategy to control pests: pesticides. However, recent research reminds us pesticides are poison. Exposure at home and work is linked with cancer and birth defects as well as certain neurological, behavioral, reproductive, hormonal, and immune system disorders.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a safer way to control pests.

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

All creatures require food, water and shelter to survive. Pests live inside buildings where these needs are met. Block pests out and remove their sources of food, water and shelter and you will need fewer pesticides to control pests – keeping you, your staff and your building visitors safe.

There are five steps to IPM. Begin with these suggestions or hire a pest control company that provides IPM services.

1. **Keep Pests Out:** Caulk or cement cracks and holes on the outside of the building. Install door sweeps and avoid propping doors open. Screen windows. Place dumpsters far from your backdoor. Inspect deliveries for pests.
2. **Remove Pests' Food & Water:** Good sanitation (especially in areas where food is prepared, stored or eaten) is a great way to control pests. Clean behind equipment and appliances. Store food in pest proof containers. Make sure all garbage cans have tight fitting lids. Repair leaky pipes and remove standing water.
3. **Reduce Pests' Shelter:** A messy room provides many places for pests to hide. Get rid of clutter! Seal holes in the walls and cracks along baseboards. Use shelving that is easy to clean under.
4. **Monitor for Pests:** You'll want to find out early if pests are inside your business. Place insect sticky traps in kitchens, bathrooms, pantries 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 expose people and the environment to greater risk. Use traps and bait stations to safely eliminate pests instead. A pest control company can even use a specialized vacuum cleaner to get rid of roaches.

Why Use IPM?

Save money: Many people report spending less money on pest control by using IPM. In some cases, IPM may cost more up front (caulking cracks and installing doorsweeps) but over time, you will need less pesticide and maybe fewer visits from your pest control company. **More effective:** IPM can cost less because it addresses the root cause of pest problems. By removing what attracts pests to the building and allows them access, fewer pests will come around – leading to less pesticide use.

Safer: IPM protects you, your staff and the environment from unnecessary pesticide application. Reducing pesticide use will reduce pesticide resistance, ensuring the chemical controls work when we really need them.

Resources

For more information about Integrated Pest Management contact the Safer Pest Control Project at www.spcpweb.org or by calling 312-641-5575.

Contact Information

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn

100 West Randolph
Suite 15-200
Chicago, Illinois
60601
312-814-5220 phone
312-814-4862 fax

State House
Room 214
Springfield, Illinois
62706
217-782-7884 phone
217-524-6262 fax

GreenSolutions.il.gov