

Integrated Pest Management in Tabernacle Township Schools

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for schools is a process for achieving long-term, environmentally sound pest suppression through the use of a wide variety of technological and management practices. The Tabernacle Township School District uses an IPM approach for managing insects, rodents and weeds. Our goal is to protect students and staff from unnecessary pesticide exposure. This approach focuses on making the school building and grounds an unfavorable habitat for these pests by removing food and water sources and the elimination of their hiding and breeding places. The emphasis is on the least toxic and environmentally disruptive practices to solve pest problems. Conventional pesticides are used only when needed.

We accomplish this goal through routine maintenance and cleaning. The buildings and grounds are regularly monitored to detect any pests that may be present. Pest sightings are reported to the IPM Coordinator who evaluates the “pest problem” and determines the appropriate management techniques to address the problem. A USEPA approved pesticide will only be applied when necessary and only to the affected area. These products will be evaluated for toxicity and the least toxic material will be selected for use. Areas targeted for pesticide application will be posted with advisory notices three days before and two days after the application procedure. Emergent applications may be performed with a shortened notice period when the safety integrity levels of building occupants may be impacted. Parental notifications may be sent home with students or posted to the district’s internet website if necessary.

Integrated Pest Management on school property is a long-term approach to maintaining healthy facilities and landscapes that minimize exposure risks to people and the environment. Through the use of site assessment, monitoring and pest prevention practices in combination with a variety of pest management tactics, pests are kept under control and within acceptable limits. Integrated Pest Management successfully employs administrative, mechanical, physical, biological and horticultural controls with a highly selective use of commercial pesticides only when needed. The application of IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest damage and nuisance by the most economical means and with the lowest possible hazard posed to people, property and our environment. Tabernacle Township Schools is committed to practicing the techniques of IPM to protect our students and staff from unnecessary pesticide exposure while maintaining a high degree of pest control in our educational and work environments.