



IPM for Child Care Centers



What is IPM?



IPM, or integrated pest management, is a method of managing pest problems by using safer ways to prevent pests coming in, and to control pests safely.

Why should you use IPM in your child care center?

IPM protects the health of children and staff, is less harmful to the environment, is low cost and easy to implement.

Why are pests a problem?



Pests can cause health problems such as allergies and asthma attacks, carry disease, cause bites, stings and itchy, irritated skin. They can also damage property and contaminate food.

What are the health effects of using pesticides?



Children are especially vulnerable to the chemicals in pesticides because of their growing bodies. Pesticides can trigger asthma attacks, cause cancer, and immune system damage. There may be long-term effects such as birth defects, learning and developmental disorders, disabilities, and cancer as well as breathing problems, nausea and headaches.

What pests do I need to worry about?

Rats, mice, bees & wasps, flies, ants, termites, cockroaches, mosquitos, ticks, fleas and bedbugs can be a concern in the child care center.

How Can I Control Pests Using IPM?

1. PREVENT – Keep pests out



- Block entry points: Seal all cracks and holes (foundation, siding, near pipes), screen all windows and doors, install door sweeps and weather stripping; inspect all deliveries.

- Remove all:

Food - Cleanup food after eating; keep food in covered metal or glass containers; keep kitchen area grease-free and crumb-free.

Water - Fix any water leaks, eliminate moisture, dry sinks at end of the day.

Shelter - Reduce clutter, eliminate nesting places such as cardboard boxes, vacuum well and often.

- Look outside: Eliminate standing water (flower pots, tires, toys, natural pools), control weeds and debris, seal garbage bins tightly.



FOOD

ALL PESTS NEED:



WATER



SHELTER



Maintain Clean & Sanitary Conditions

2. MONITOR – Continually look for evidence of pests

- Droppings or hairs, nests, holes in walls, baseboards or window frames, gnawing on walls, wires, food packages, or newspapers, tracks along walls.
- Seeing or hearing pests.
- Rows of red bite marks on the skin from bedbugs.



3. MANAGE - Know the life cycle

- Identify the pest(s) so you know how to best control and treat. “Think like a pest.” Different methods are needed for different pests. For assistance in identifying pests: 203-974-8500 (CT Agricultural Experiment Station); [Fact sheets on individual pests](#)
- If preventive measures have not worked, use the least harmful solution to solve pest problems. This includes mechanical traps, child resistant bait stations, gels, sticky traps or boric acid. Ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored in a separate locked area.
- Do not use over-the-counter products such as sprays or foggers. These are pesticides designed to kill and are dangerous around children.
- If stronger measures are needed, use a licensed pest management professional and apply in targeted areas when children are not present.

ROUTINE spraying of pesticides by staff or professionals is NOT appropriate.



For more information on IPM and Training Materials:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
 - [Preventing Pests at Home Fact Sheet \(English\)](#) ([Spanish](#))
 - [Healthy Child Care Information for Child Care Providers](#)
- [IPM Checklist](#)
- [Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards](#), 3rd edition Chap 5: 5.28, p. 226
- [CT Statutes and Regulations for Child Day Care Centers & Group Day Care Homes](#)
- [CT DPH Bed Bugs](#)
- [IPM: A Curriculum for Early Care and Education Programs](#)