

Integrated Pest Management for Iowa Schools



Pesticide Use Protocol for Pest Management Technicians

Most criticism over the use of pesticides has been related to concern about the potential hazard to the environment and the general public. While some of this concern has been ill founded and emotional, excessive use and misuse of pesticides could endanger human health and the environment.

In accepting the benefits of pesticides, there is a responsibility to use them with care and respect, and in accordance with label specifications. By incorporating safe use practices into daily work habits, much of the risk is removed. Ensure that appropriate school personnel are informed of all activities pertaining to pests and pesticide use. The following pesticide use protocol will minimize pesticide exposure, ensure the well being of students and school staff, and relieve fears or concerns about the proposed pesticide applications.

Prior to any pesticide application

- Thoroughly inspect the problem areas to identify the pest(s) involved
- Review the habits and biology of the pest
- Review integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for controlling this pest
- Pursue nonchemical management strategies as thoroughly as possible; document all activities. Using these strategies may eliminate the problem.
- Read the labels of prospective products to determine which pesticide is registered and best suited for the pest and the sensitive site
- Discuss with the IPM Coordinator at the school the history of the pest problem, including all prior management efforts
- Present the IPM Coordinator with a sample product label and current MSDS of the recommended product
- After obtaining permission from the IPM Coordinator, schedule the pesticide treatment and submit the required paperwork for adequate Prenotification. Pesticide treatments should be scheduled during school holidays, on weekends or on Friday afternoon after students and staff have left and when the facilities will not be used that evening. The exception to this would be for pests that cause imminent harm.

- Verify that Prenotification has occurred
- Read the product label and follow all directions and safety precautions

Pesticide application

- Thoroughly inspect the area(s) to be treated to ensure that all safety precautions have been made
 - Secure area from all nonparticipating persons
 - Remove any pets from treatment area
 - Make sure that all food and food utensils are properly stored
 - Turn off any air conditioning systems if the product could be disseminated through the air
- Post the treated area following school requirements
- Wear personal protective equipment as indicated on the pesticide label
- Calculate and mix only the amount of chemical needed for the job
- Make the pesticide application, localizing the treatment to as small of an area as practical for effective treatment
- For outdoor treatments, do not spray in windy conditions to minimize drift

After the treatment

- Record specific information about the treatment in the Pesticide Use Log
- Ensure that adequate time has elapsed before the technician re-enters a treated area
- For interior areas, ventilate by opening all windows and doors and allow fresh air for at least two hours, or turn on the air conditioner with maximum fresh air intake for at least two hours
- Clean any surfaces as directed by pesticide label
- Allow people to re-enter the area for school activities
- Inform the IPM Coordinator about the treatment
- Follow-up to determine the effectiveness of the treatment

Adapted from Pesticide Use in Schools and School Grounds by KJ Buckett and PN Di Marco, 1997, National Environmental Health Forum Monographs, General Series No. 1, Health Department of Western Australia.