



What are Some Common Pests in Child Care Settings?

- Flies and cockroaches may spread disease.
- Cockroaches can cause allergies and asthma attacks.
- Yellow jacket stings are painful and can be life-threatening to those with allergies.
- Spiders may inflict painful bites and some may pose a health risk.
- Mice may contaminate food, trigger asthma attacks and cause structural damage.
- Termites cause structural damage.

How Can You Get Started with an IPM Program?

Several resources are available to provide you with information on how to start an IPM Program at your facility. They include:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Integrated Pest Management in Schools website at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/>
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 3 Office, in Philadelphia provides IPM expertise, support and outreach materials. Telephone: 215-814-2042.
- Maryland Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Regulation Section provides expertise and outreach materials. Telephone: 410-841-5710 .

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Pesticide Regulation Section

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Phone: 410-841-5710, Fax 410-841-2765



MDA 14.02 5/15

Integrated Pest Management in Child Care Facilities

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM PESTICIDES



Protecting Children from Pests and Pesticides

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?



Pesticides are powerful tools for controlling pests. However, pesticides need to be used carefully and judiciously, especially when used in sensitive areas where children are present. Children are more sensitive than adults to pesticides. Young children have greater risk to pesticides from crawling, exploring, and other hand-to-mouth activities.

IPM creates a safer environment for children. To reduce children's exposure to pesticides as well as eliminate pests, MDA encourages child care facility administrators, owners and operators to adopt IPM practices to reduce children's exposure to pesticides.

How do You Know if a Child Care Facility is Using IPM?

- The problem or pest is identified before taking action.
- Vegetation, shrubs and wood mulch is kept at least one foot away from structures.
- Cracks and crevices in walls, floors and pavement are sealed or eliminated.
- Food-contaminated dishes, utensils and surfaces are cleaned daily.
- Garbage cans and dumpsters are cleaned regularly.
- Litter is collected and disposed of properly, at least once a week.
- If pesticides are necessary, spot treatments are used rather than area - wide applications.

Is There a Safer Way to Control Pests?

Child care administrators and others who have decision-making responsibilities for pest management in and around child care buildings and grounds should know that pesticides are not the only option. IPM is safer, and usually a less costly option for effective pest management. An IPM program employs common sense strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in and around buildings and grounds. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management strategies including, when necessary, the judicious, careful use of pesticides.

