

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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Your Integrated Pest Management Program

1. What is IPM?

IPM, or Integrated Pest Management, is an environmentally sensitive approach to controlling pests. IPM identifies the pest and then discovers the cause of the infestation. Many times, pest management can be achieved simply by blocking pest entry into buildings or by removing the food and water sources that are attracting the pests.

In some cases, a pesticide may need to be applied. Pesticide applications should be made only by a professional pest control firm or a trained applicator. They must select the "least hazardous" material and apply it in a way that minimizes the exposure of children and staff.

2. Why should I use IPM in my child care?

In 1995, the West Virginia legislature passed a law requiring the use of IPM in all child care centers and facilities. The intent of the law was to reduce the exposure of children to pesticides. The IPM rules define the types of pesticides that can be applied and restrict application times when children are present.

3. How do I get started?

Begin by contacting the Compliance Assistance staff at the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) at 304-558-2209. Request a "child care IPM packet." It will contain an IPM plan to fill out, a Best Management Practices guide, notification forms, and other information about child care IPM.

An inspection should be made of the child care for pests or pest-prone areas. This can be performed by in-house staff with guidance from WVDA. If you wish, you may hire a

professional pest control company to provide the initial inspection.

West Virginia law requires monitoring for pests before pesticides are applied. Sticky traps checked at least once a month are used for pest monitoring. Monitoring can be done by in-house staff with guidance from WVDA or by a professional pest control company.

4. What should be in my IPM file?

West Virginia law requires the following to be kept in an IPM file in each child care:

- the adopted integrated pest management plan;
- monitoring diagrams;
- treatment records, including a floor plan indicating treatment locations;
- copies of Pest Surveillance Data Sheets containing monthly monitoring observations;
- labels of pesticide products applied; and
- consumer information or material safety data sheets of these pesticide products.

5. Am I required to notify parents if a pesticide application becomes necessary?

West Virginia law requires child care operators to inform parents of the right to be notified of Level 3 and 4 pesticide applications when the child is enrolled. If a pesticide application becomes necessary, the child care operator must post the pesticide application notification at the sign-in station at least 24 hours in advance of the application.

Notification Request forms and Notice of Pesticide Application forms are available from WVDA.

6. What types of control methods are available?

The least hazardous material is to be chosen according to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Rules for Integrated Pest Management Programs. All pesticides, even over-the-counter products, must be applied only by persons licensed as certified pesticide applicators.

Control methods are grouped into four levels according to the level of hazard they present to people. A higher level product will not necessarily provide better control of pests, but is potentially more toxic to children and child care staff.

You should ask your pest control company to use Level 2 products whenever possible. EPA has recently linked some Level 3 products to developmental disabilities in children. You may wish to review the pesticide choice with the applicator or contact WVDA for advice on product selection.

- **Level 1 — Non-chemical Control Methods**

Level 1 methods are non-chemical controls such as good water drainage, improved sanitation, and structural repairs. Sealing cracks and gaps to keep pests out, and mechanical controls such as screens on windows and doors are also effective non-chemical control methods.

- **Level 2 — Least Hazardous Materials**

The “least hazardous” pesticides are classified as Level 2 products. Level 2 products have a Caution signal word and are applied as contained bait stations, or as bait gels or dusts in cracks and crevices or wall voids.

- **Level 3 — Crack and Crevice and Spot Treatments**

Level 3 products are those with a Caution signal word, but which are not baits and dusts as listed under Level 2. Level 3 products are to be applied only as crack and crevice or spot treatments. Use of Level 3 products requires a 4-hour re-entry period and notification of parents.

- **Level 4 — Broadcast Applications and Space Treatments**

Level 4 products are those with a Caution signal word applied by broadcast or baseboard application or space treatment. Products with a Warning or Danger signal word applied by any method are also classified as Level 4. The use of Level 4 products requires an 8-hour re-entry period and parental notification.

7. Is there anything else I should do?

Before hiring a pest control firm, check with WVDA. The company must be certified in Urban Integrated Pest Management to provide service to child cares.