



*Environmental Public Health Division
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Pesticides

Pesticide application in schools is regulated by the Indiana Pesticide Review Board. To review the rule, see: 357 IAC 1-16.

Schools should use integrated pest management to minimize pesticide use while still controlling pests. Below is a portion of EPA's information on IPM taken from their website.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a safer and usually less costly option for effective pest management in the school community than traditional, routine pesticide use. A school IPM program employs commonsense strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in your school buildings and grounds. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management strategies, including judicious careful use of pesticides when necessary.

How Do You Know if Your School is Really Using IPM?

You can make sure that:

1. The problem or pest is identified before taking action.
2. Vegetation, shrubs and wood mulch should be kept at least one foot away from structures.
3. Cracks and crevices in walls, floors and pavement are either sealed or eliminated.
4. Lockers and desks are emptied and thoroughly cleaned at least twice yearly.
5. Food-contaminated dishes, utensils, surfaces are cleaned by the end of each day.
6. Garbage cans and dumpsters are cleaned regularly.
7. Litter is collected and disposed of properly at least once a week.
8. Fertilizers should be applied several times (e.g., spring, summer, and fall) during the year, rather than one heavy application.
9. If pesticides are necessary, use spot treatments rather than area-wide applications.

10. When selecting products, select the most environmentally friendly product that will meet your needs.

It is recommended that any food stored in classrooms or lounges be kept in sealed storage containers.

For more information we suggest you look at the **Indiana State Chemist's webpage regarding pesticide use at schools:**

https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/pest_use_at_school.html