

What is IPM?

Integrated Pest Management is an ecologically based strategy that focuses on pest prevention by combining techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, cultural practices, and the use of pesticides. Pesticide controls should only be used after monitoring indicates established pest thresholds have been met. Pesticide products should be selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, non-target organisms, and the environment.

What is a pest?

A pest can be any organism that spreads disease, causes destruction or is otherwise a nuisance to humans, animals, plants, landscapes, forest, livestock, crops, and other human concerns. A pest can be a plant (weed), vertebrate (rodent), invertebrate (insect), pathogen (virus, bacteria) or other unwanted organism.

How does IPM work?

IPM focuses on prevention. By eliminating or reducing sources of food, water, and harborage you create an environment that is less attractive to pest. Maintaining buildings in good repair, sealing or caulking gaps and cracks keep insects or rodents from entering structures. Rather than just eliminating the pest you see, IPM focuses on manipulating environmental factors to prevent or reduce pest infestations.

Proper pest monitoring and identification can help determine whether a pest can be tolerated or if control is warranted. IPM combines a variety of control methods for greater effectiveness such as:

Sanitation- picking up loose trash, waste removal, closed trashcan lids, no food in classrooms

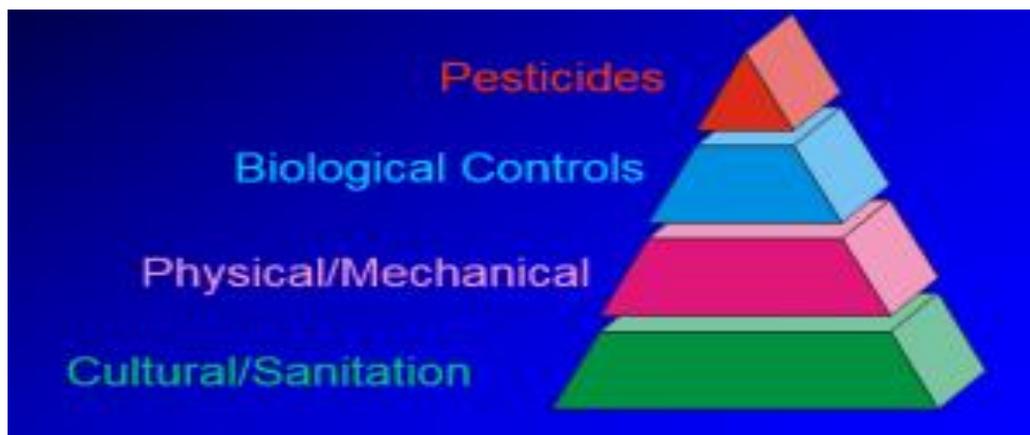
Exclusion or Cultural controls – remove pest harborage, seal gaps and cracks around structures, install barriers to eliminate access to structures

Mechanical or Physical controls – manipulating environment to make it less desirable to pest, heat treatments, humidity control, mechanical traps, vacuuming

Biological controls- the use of natural predators to control pest, pheromones, parasitic insects

Chemical controls- the use of pesticides, rodenticides, herbicides, fungicides

IPM Pyramid



Components of an IPM program

1. Proper pest identification
2. Pest monitoring program
3. Established pest thresholds
4. Pest prevention protocols
5. Utilizing a combination of control methods within the IPM pyramid
6. Assessment of pest management efforts

