

# IMPROVING KIDS' ENVIRONMENT



## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT WORKS IN SCHOOLS

### What is Integrated Pest Management?

Integrated pest management involves pest prevention and proactive pest management. By keeping pests out and removing sources of food, water and shelter, fewer pests are encountered and pesticides are used only as a last resort.

- IPM results in fewer pest complaints
- IPM saves money
- IPM empowers school staff
- IPM creates a cleaner, healthier school environment for children and staff

### Have any Indiana schools successfully implemented IPM?

Yes. Two Indiana schools are models for IPM implementation.

Using IPM for the past 15 years, Monroe County Consolidated School District has reduced pest complaints by 90 percent and saved 17.6 percent on its annual pest management costs.

The Metropolitan School District of Pike Township in Indianapolis now handles pest management in-house, saving more than \$5,000 in contractor costs per year, while reducing pest problems.

### Does IPM work?

Yes. Pike Township Schools piloted a three-school IPM program in early 2009. By the end of the 2009-10 school year, Pike had reduced pest complaints in all of its schools – using nothing harsher than dishwash-

### For More Information

- Learn more about integrated pest management on our website: [www.ikecoalition.org](http://www.ikecoalition.org).
- Join the Indiana IPM Schools Coalition to learn from others how to reduce both pests and pesticides in your school.
- Contact IKE at 317-677-4760 or 1111 E. 54th Street, Ste. 212, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

ing soap to control and clean up indoor pests. Monroe County Schools, with almost 15 years of IPM experience, has reduced both pest complaints and pesticide use by 90 percent.

With 10 years of experience working in 14 states, Indiana University entomologist Marc Lame has documented a 71 percent reduction in pesticide application accompanied by a 78 percent drop in pest complaints to school administrators.

### Does IPM cost more?

IPM saves money in the long run. Because successful IPM involves improved cleanliness and better maintenance, IPM costs should be considered integral to a school's basic operations and maintenance costs. In well-managed schools, IPM – even at the beginning – should not cost any more than traditional pest management. After the initial investment, IPM gets more and more economical, allowing you to save money on pest management and devote more money towards what matters – educating students.

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During its first year, Pike Township schools spent no more money on pest management than they had spent before. Monroe County hired an in-house IPM coordinator for its school district and still saved 17.6 percent on pest management annually – reducing costs from \$34,000 to \$28,000 per year.

## Will IPM be a burden on my staff?

IPM creates different expectations, but not a higher burden. Pike Facilities Director Raul Rivas says: “Instead of empowering the pest management companies, we’re empowering our staff” by providing them with meaningful professional development and clear expectations for their work.

Because IPM is more effective, Monroe County Schools custodians no longer encounter yellowjackets, wasps, roaches, mice and other pests on the job. Custodians have seen the benefits of improved cleanliness and use that knowledge to persuade teachers to reduce pest-attracting messes in their classrooms.

IPM does require you to invest in training for teachers, custodians, kitchen staff and others, so they understand the school’s pest management goals and how a clean, well-maintained school environment will prevent pests and reduce the need for pesticides.

## References

Moore, J. *From Pest Treatment to Pest Prevention: A Case Study of Integrated Pest Management at The Metropolitan School District of Pike Township*, Improving Kids’ Environment, August 2010.

The resources below have been recommended by experienced IPM practitioners:

The Environmental Protection Agency’s IPM in Schools Website: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/>

The IPM Institute of North America:  
[http://www.ipminstitute.org/school\\_biblio.htm](http://www.ipminstitute.org/school_biblio.htm)

National School IPM Information Source:  
<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Pennsylvania State University’s IPM Extension:  
<http://extension.psu.edu/ipm>

Purdue IPM Extension:  
<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/schoolipm/>

## What You Can Do to Protect Kids from Environmental Threats



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- If you live in a home built before 1978, have your child and home tested for lead and learn about lead-safe renovation practices.
- Help reduce air pollution. Schools can improve air quality by restricting vehicle idling in parking lots and joining the Smart Schools Don't Idle program.
- Reduce pesticide use. Schools can adopt Integrated Pest Management practices, which use chemical pesticides as a last resort.
- Stay informed by becoming a supporter of Improving Kids’ Environment at [www.ikecoalition.org](http://www.ikecoalition.org)