



## Integrated Pest Management

### What is Integrated Pest Management?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a safer, less costly option for effective pest management in the home or business environment. IPM employs commonsense strategies to reduce sources of food, water, and shelter for pests in your home and building. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management strategies, including the judicious use of pesticides when needed. By using fewer pesticides, and or/ pesticides that are more environmentally friendly, IPM can help protect your drinking water! The Best Management Practices below can help you to set up an IPM system at your home or business.

### How can I implement IPM indoors?

- ◆ Keep doors shut when not in use. Place weather stripping around doors and in windows to close air gaps to the outdoors;
- ◆ Install or repair holes, tears, or other damage to screens;
- ◆ Install air curtains in doorways leading from rooms that open to the outside;
- ◆ Fill in cracks and crevices in walls, floors, and pavement;
- ◆ Keep vegetation, shrubs, and wood mulch at least one foot from structures;
- ◆ Allow food and beverages only in designated areas, and keep these areas swept, and wiped down to remove any potential food source for pests;
- ◆ Fix leaky plumbing and look for other sources of water, such as trays under houseplants;
- ◆ Frequently vacuum carpeted areas;
- ◆ Make sure that leftover foods are tightly sealed and garbage is regularly removed;
- ◆ Store boxed or bagged foods in tightly sealed plastic containers;
- ◆ Clean food-contaminated dishes, utensils, and surfaces every day;
- ◆ Place screens on vents, windows, and floor drains to prevent cockroaches and other pests from using unscreened ducts or vents as pathways;
- ◆ Store paper products away from moist areas and direct contact with the floor and walls. This makes it easier to inspect for pests;
- ◆ After use, promptly clean mops and mop buckets, dry mop buckets, and hang mops vertically on a rack to dry upright; and
- ◆ Clean garbage cans and dumpsters regularly. Use plastic liners in trash cans and use secure lids.



### Outdoor Pest Prevention

- ◆ Regularly clean trash containers and gutters, and remove all waste, especially food and paper debris;
- ◆ Provide adequate drainage away from structures and on the grounds;
- ◆ Maintain healthy turf by selecting a mixture of turf types best adapted for the area, or native species. Check with your Cooperative Extension Service for recommendations on turf types, management practices, and other information.
- ◆ Raise mowing height for grass to enhance its competition with weeds. Sharpen mower blades and vary mowing patterns to help reduce soil compaction;
- ◆ Water turf infrequently, but sufficiently during morning hours (about 1" if it has not rained in a week);

- ◆ All grass clippings to remain on the lawn or compost with other organic material;
- ◆ Time fertilizer application appropriately because excessive fertilizer can cause additional problems, including weed and disease outbreaks; and
- ◆ If you must use a pesticide, use liquid formulas to spot treat trouble spots or weeds; avoid treating the entire yard with a general application of pesticides or herbicides.

### When Pests are Overwhelming!

- ◆ Identify the pest before taking action. Some types of pests are especially vulnerable to traps or bait stations. This is an effective means of ridding your home or business of pests, at low risk of exposure to pesticides. The entomology data base at the University of Kentucky Department of Agriculture offers a good web site to help you determine the general type of pest you have, and makes recommendations for pesticides that may be used in the State of Kentucky;

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/entfacts>

- ◆ Use pheromone traps as a way of ridding your lawn of pests of certain species;
- ◆ Check with your Cooperative Extension Agent for relatively low-risk pesticides you can use for the particular pest you have; and
- ◆ Once you have identified the particular pests and low-risk pesticides you can use, try a spot application first, rather than a broad-based application. Apply the pesticide to cracks and crevices, not spray over the entire room or yard area.

### Safety Tips for IPM

- ◆ Consider using microbial and bacterial insecticides where possible, or insecticidal soaps. Remember that some insects are beneficial and can help remove other pests!
- ◆ **Always read and follow the label's instructions and safety warnings.** If you use a pest control company, make sure they are licensed with the State of Kentucky. Ask for the name and EPA registration number of any chemical they use, as well as the amount. The pest control operator should be able to provide information about the chemical such as the Material Safety Data Sheet;
- ◆ Use ready-to-use products whenever possible to avoid mixing and spilling the insecticide;
- ◆ Dispose of leftover pesticides and pesticide containers properly. **Read the label** to find out how to dispose of the pesticide AND the container;
- ◆ Don't use outdoor chemicals indoors. Many chemicals intended for outdoor use are dangerous to use indoors, because they remain toxic longer inside than they would outside;
- ◆ Don't assume that twice as much is better. Using too much of a pesticide may endanger your family, your neighbor, your co-worker's health, or the wildlife that uses the insects in your lawn as a food source;
- ◆ Don't transfer pesticides to other containers;
- ◆ **NEVER** store pesticides in used food and beverage containers. Never use an empty pesticide container to store anything else, either; and
- ◆ Protect your children, pets, and wildlife by reading the directions and applying the pesticide as instructed. Don't allow children or pets on the lawn after a pesticide treatment, and try to keep wildlife off the property by using plastic owls or snakes, tin foil pans hung in the trees, or other means.

For more information about toxic pesticides, contact the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service at (502) 569-2344.



Wellhead Protection Specialist ◆ Louisville Water Company  
 550 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street ◆ Louisville, KY 40202 ◆ 502-569-3600, ext. 1809  
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