

Lock Up Pesticides and Chemicals

More than 145,000 reports are made each year to poison centers involving pesticides and disinfectants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urges parents and caregivers to secure pesticides and other household chemicals in locked cabinets out of children's reach. Each year, approximately 65,000 children ages 5 and younger are accidentally exposed to pesticides, and more than 10,000 of those exposures involve mouse and rat poisons. Recently, EPA took steps that, with the help of Americans who use these products around their homes, could lower these statistics. Under new EPA safety standards, consumers using mouse and rat bait products must use a protective tamper-resistant bait station. These measures prevent children from accessing the poison.

More than 90 percent of poisonings happen in homes. Parents and caregivers can protect children and loved ones against pesticide exposure. **Poisonings are preventable. Here are some simple tips to prepare and stay safe:**

- Always store pesticides and other household chemical products in a locked cabinet.
- To protect children and pets from exposure to mouse and rat poison, use products with a tamper-resistant bait station.
- Go through your home room by room to see where there are potential poisoning hazards and correct accordingly.
- Use child-resistant packaging properly by closing the container tightly after use.
- Purchase only the amount of pesticide product that is required for the job.
- Never transfer pesticides and other household chemical products to containers that may be mistaken for food or drink.
- Never store pesticides in the same locations with food products.
- Program the Poison Help Center number, 1-800-222-1222, in your phone.

Poison prevention tips and resources to protect your family:
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/poisonprevention.htm>

Room by room checklist for potential poisoning hazards:
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/roombyroom-checklist.htm>

List of rat and mouse products that meet the EPA's safety standards:
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mice-and-rats/rodent-bait-station.html>



More on National Poison Prevention Week: <http://www.poisonprevention.org/index.htm>

Mouse Control Videos

Mice are important pests in schools. They contaminate food prepared for humans. Their droppings (urines and feces) and hairs can be an asthma trigger. They can transmit diseases such as Salmonellosis, caused by *Salmonella* bacteria. For these reasons, it is important to control mice in schools.

Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), with support from the Western IPM center, USDA NIFA, Oregon State University (OSU) Extension and Eden Advanced Pest Technologies, created a series of mouse control videos. The three-part series include exclusionary methods (**Exclusion**) and sanitation practices (**Sanitation**) for mouse control, and trapping mice (**Trapping**) in urban buildings.



Video 1: [IPM for Mice - Exclusion](#)

Message: Eliminate access points by fixing holes and cracks. Focus your efforts on: doors, windows, vents, and pipes.

Video 2: [IPM for Mice - Sanitation](#)

Message: Eliminate food, water and shelter sources. Maintain and clean food preparation areas. Regularly clean areas surrounding appliances. Use sealable plastic bins or jars to prevent mouse access to stored items.

Clean and maintain dumpsters. Eliminate indoor clutter. Create an inspection aisle in food storage areas. Good landscape practices also help to reduce mice by eliminating harborage in shrubs and outdoor plants.

Video 3: [IPM for Mice - Trapping](#)

Message: Use peanut butter, jellies, chocolate, or possible nesting materials such as cotton balls to bait mouse traps. Place traps along wall baseboards, facing so that the trap closes toward the wall. Mice droppings should be wet down with disinfectant and wiped to minimize airborne irritants. Practice good safety measures when handling dead rodents, mouse traps and when cleaning up indoors.

Reference: "Rodent Control: A Practical Guide for Pest Management Professionals" by Robert M. Corrigan.

Using IPM to Control Weeds on School Grounds

Should we be using pesticides to control weeds and insects on school grounds? Healthy and well-maintained landscapes and vigorously growing turf will deter weed and insect invasions but somehow, these pests still manage to find openings to establish and spread.

A survey report in the School IPM Newsletter from Colorado State University indicated that "Weeds were the most prevalent pest in outdoor areas". 96% of school districts said that weeds

had been a problem on school grounds. Weeds in particular are problematic wherever they invade because of their tendency to spread and take over landscapes and turf. 65% of school districts said that they spot spray with herbicides and 61.5% said that they apply weed and feed herbicides with fertilizers to turf.

Whether you have dandelions on sports fields or puncturevine on the playground, there are many IPM approaches to controlling weeds. Tactics to control weeds without the use of chemicals include keeping weeds from going to seed, hand-weeding or pulling, use of mulches and biological agents such as beneficial insects. Aggressive weeds can crowd out turfgrasses and other desirable plants, so proper fertilization and irrigation is important.

For more information, see the School IPM Newsletter - Feb. 2013

http://coloradoipmcenter.agsci.colostate.edu/Communities/school_IPM.html

National Healthy Schools Day: Celebrate and Promote Healthy and Green Indoor School Environments for All Children and Staff

For ten years parents, teachers, school nurses, custodians, advocates, and agencies have promoted National Healthy Schools Day activities nationwide. National Healthy Schools Day is April 30, 2013. It is coordinated by Healthy Schools Network in cooperation with US EPA. It promotes the use of EPA's [IAQ Tools for Schools guidance](#) as well as other EPA environmental

health guidelines and programs for schools and children's health.



Start now, CELEBRATE in April 2013

**Tuesday, April 30th, 2013 and
all week long!**

Whether you are at the beginning stages of investigating school environments or have an established Indoor Air / Environmental Quality

program, we invite you to host a local activity that educates others and celebrates your school's successes. Participate locally, in your city or state, or nationally! Become a new or continuing organizational partner for 2013. Register your activity or tell your success story at: www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org. See the free online activity tools and suggestions, such as the all-new [Healthy Schools Day State/City Proclamation/Resolution](#) toolkit, or the [Take Back Your IAQ Classroom Checklist](#). Visit [this website](#) for more ideas.

“What are your schools doing and what is your state doing to improve environmental health at school?” Find out the status of your state and read the new State of the States report in, [Towards Healthy Schools 2015!](#)



www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org



EPA Announces Launch of National Center of Expertise for School Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the launch of its National Center of Expertise for School Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The Center will provide leadership and expertise to carry out the goal of ensuring that millions of children in our Nation's schools benefit from IPM practices and verifiable IPM programs. The Center will serve as a national resource on School IPM, as well as a facilitator of activities amongst key School IPM stakeholders at the local, regional, and Federal level.

The Center is situated at EPA Region 6 in Dallas, TX. Center staff includes Thomas Cook, Sherry Glick, Brad Miller, and Brian Davidson. The Center of Expertise will focus on a wide range of school IPM activities including: developing and refining national program direction, coordinating regional activities to achieve national goals, creating and maintaining web-based resources, and coordinating with other EPA national programs.

Protecting children's health where they live, learn, and play is a top priority for the EPA. Children in the United States continue to face potential risks arising from exposure to pests and pesticides in school settings. School IPM is an approach to managing pests that schools can use to reduce pest and pesticide risk for students and staff. The EPA's recently released [Strategic and Implementation Plans for School IPM](#) demonstrate how the EPA will promote the goal for all of the nation's children to be covered by a verifiable and ongoing school IPM program.

Get School Nurses Involved

Schools provide a healthy indoor and outdoor environment for students and staff by using IPM to control pests. It would be appropriate to involve the school nurse in the discussion of how to best serve students. The school nurse would serve as a support for the teacher, the parent and the student, not only in the area of adapted physical education, but as an ongoing resource for the students with a chronic disease and their family. The school nurses are able to offer medical care, educational materials for school staff and help to create plans of care that allow a child to participate as fully as possible in the regular school day. Here are some articles that show how schools nurses get involved and provide great services for their schools.

[Nurse raises concerns over air quality at ME Foster Elementary School in southwest Houston due to carbon dioxide symptoms](#)

[Involve School Nurses in Planning for Asthmatics' Needs](#)

[Notes from the Field: School Reporting of a Dengue Outbreak — St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, 2012](#)



Upcoming Events

Apr. 3, 2013, 2-3 p.m. Eastern / 11-12 p.m. Arizona, Webinar: [The Three T's of Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools \(EPA\)](#)

The health effects associated with elevated blood lead levels in children are very serious and last a lifetime. Children spend a significant portion of their day in schools and child care facilities and they are likely to consume water while they're there. To assist schools and child care centers with implementation of programs and policies to reduce lead in drinking water, EPA uses the 3Ts concept: Training, Testing, and Telling. This webinar will cover how to implement a 3T program in your school or child care facility.

Apr. 10, 2013, 4-5 p.m. Eastern / 1-2 p.m. Arizona, Webinar: [Pathways to Green Jobs and Careers in Natural Resources \(USDA\)](#)

The green industry has been growing at a phenomenal pace over the past five years. Massive investments in clean energy promise to keep farmers, urban planners, and green-tech entrepreneurs in business for the next decade. The United Nations is projecting the green industry to swell to nearly \$1.5 trillion. This webinar will feature high level participation from the USDA, experts in this emerging realm along with Green Team students who aspire to embrace Green jobs as a career pursuit.

Apr. 11, 2013, Thursday, 8-2 p.m. Arizona: [Annual Spring Turfgrass Seminar – “Haboobs, Heat, Rain, and Snow in the Desert”](#), Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85040

Early bird reduced registration until April 8. Learn about the basics of meteorology (jet stream, fronts, and pressure systems); Arizona's seasons (monsoon and dust storms); climate change and applications for frost management and irrigation management. This seminar will help you understand meteorological phenomena and their impact on turf management in Arizona.

Apr. 24, 2013, 4-5 p.m. Eastern / 1-2 p.m. Arizona, Webinar: [GreenSchools & STEM \(USFS/PLT\)](#)

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) is a term that has become more and more popular as the federal government pushes for improvements in student performance in these vital areas. Whether you're a teacher, administrator, parent or student Green Team member, this webinar will demonstrate how STEM can be seamlessly integrated into the school curriculum using the US Forest Service / Project Learning Tree GreenSchools! Investigations and grant program as a model for schools.

April 30, 2013, Tuesday, Workshop: [Integrated Pest Management in a Child's World](#), 840 Rodeo Drive Building C, Prescott, AZ 86305-2318

Free Registration. This workshop for school personnel will provide information on: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) philosophy and the best way to manage pests, including ants, cockroaches, key kitchen pests, rodents, bats, bed bugs and head lice, pesticide safety, how to understand pesticide labels, and how to evaluate your pest management program. Participates

will be awarded six Continuing Education Units for Office of Pest Management (general category). Those who are in Yavapai County can contact Jeff Schalaus (jschalau@ag.arizona.edu), regarding the agenda and registration for the class.

April 30, 2013, 2-3 p.m. Eastern / 11-12 p.m. Arizona, Webinar: [School Environmental Health Assessment and Team Building \(EPA\)](#)

This webinar addresses how to use tools like the Sensible Steps Quick Assessment to complete a school environmental health check-up; strategies you can use to create awareness and build effective teams; and low or no cost steps to address common school environmental health issues.

May 17, 2013, Friday: [22nd Annual Desert Horticulture Conference 2013](#), Casino Del Sol Resort, 5655 W Valencia Road, Tucson, AZ 85757

Early bird reduced registration until April 30, 2013. Desert Horticulture is the premier annual conference for all members of the Green Industry: landscape architects, designers, growers, retailers, contractors, maintenance personnel, and suppliers. Our goal is to distribute timely, research-based information relevant to urban landscapes in the arid Southwest. Concurrent sessions are offered for Plants and Landscapes, Plant Health, and Hands-on Workshops. Participants can earn Continuing Education Units for different professional organizations including OPM, ISA and others. Please visit our website at <http://ag.arizona.edu/deserthort>

For more information about the EPA Schools program, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/schools/>

For more information about the Community IPM, visit:
<http://www.extension.org/pages/23359/urban-integrated-pest-management-community-page>



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