

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: CARING FOR YOUR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

Sandboxes

- ▶ Separate the sandbox from other play equipment such as slides or swings.
- ▶ Make sure the sandbox has adequate drainage so water does not puddle or pool.
- ▶ Use smooth-surfaced, fine pea gravel or washed sand that's labeled for sandboxes. Do not use sand that's used as construction material or collected from a site that uses harmful materials.
- ▶ When not in use, keep the sandbox covered with a lid or other covering that keeps pests out.



PESTS IN THE SANDBOX

- ▶ Don't use sprays or foggers in the sandbox. These are dangerous for children and don't kill pests hiding in the sand.
- ▶ Avoid using chemicals to clean or disinfect the sandbox.
- ▶ If you see or smell urine, feces, pests, or other hazards, replace the sand with fresh sand or fresh fine pea gravel.

PREVENT FUTURE PEST PROBLEMS

- ▶ Before each use, make sure sand play areas are free of pests and other dangers like sharp objects, cat, and other animal feces.
- ▶ Keep the play area clear of food, garbage, and standing water because these attract pests.
- ▶ Replace sand as often as necessary to keep the sand clean and free of pests, feces, and other hazards.

Garbage and Recycling



- ▶ Use the outdoor waste bins provided by your local waste hauler. Request more bins if your garbage or recycling regularly overflows.
- ▶ Set bins at least 50 feet away from entrances to home or play yard and keep on pest-proof pavement such as concrete.
- ▶ Keep the bin area free from spilled liquids or waste.
- ▶ Make sure that every outdoor waste bin has a tight-fitting lid.
- ▶ Rinse your recycling and bins regularly.
- ▶ Regularly rinse green waste bins for food scraps and yard trimmings that are collected by your waste hauler.

ON-SITE COMPOSTING

Composting provides a wonderful opportunity to teach children about environmental sustainability. Unfortunately, compost left in the open can attract unwanted pests. Instead, choose a closed compost bin.

- ▶ Closed compost systems make it more difficult for pests to access the contents and have fewer odors.
- ▶ They often come with handles that make turning the compost easy, even for children.
- ▶ As with waste bins, set the closed compost bin system on a pest-proof surface such as concrete.

PESTS IN GARBAGE AREA

- ▶ If you use rodent bait stations or yellowjacket traps, make sure they're placed out of children's reach.

[IPM continued]

- ▶ Call your local pest management professional for advice on how to treat rodents without using rodenticides.

PREVENT FUTURE PEST PROBLEMS

- ▶ Rinse and clean recyclables.
- ▶ Take out household garbage at the end of each day, or more often if needed.

Lawn and Garden

- ▶ Use mulch or landscape fabric to deter weeds. If you need to remove weeds, remove by hand and pull from the root.
- ▶ Water your lawn deeply and infrequently. Water in the early morning rather than during the hottest temperature of the day.
- ▶ Mow regularly and leave the clippings for your grass and roots to be healthier.
- ▶ Fertilizing with a slow-release product once a year between Halloween and Thanksgiving is best. Over-fertilization can lead to plant disease and polluted water ways. **CAUTION:** Some lawn fertilizers, such as weed-and-feed products, are mixed with pesticides. Do not use these. Read the label before purchasing any lawn-care products.
- ▶ Encourage beneficial insects such as lady beetles, crab spiders, and praying mantises by not using pesticides. Choose plants that provide beneficial insects with pollen, nectar, and shelter. Keep ants out of plants that have aphids.

PESTS IN LAWN AND GARDEN

- ▶ Don't spray! Herbicides and insecticides are dangerous for children's health.
- ▶ Identify if an organism is a pest or beneficial. Some beneficial organisms include ladybugs, dragonflies, bees, spiders, soldier beetles, and ground beetles.
- ▶ California lawns sometimes suffer from white grubs, the larval (immature) stage of several species of beetles. The best approach to grub control is to maintain a healthy lawn without using insecticides.

PREVENT FUTURE PEST PROBLEMS

- ▶ Compost added to lawns can help prevent lawn disease and increase water retention.
- ▶ If your lawn is attracting pests, consider a grass substitute such as garden chamomile, strawberry clover, caraway-scented thyme, creeping thyme, or woolly yarrow.



RESOURCES

- UC IPM Program, *Lawns and Turf*
www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/menu.turf.html

- Our Water, Our World – *Beneficial Insects*
<http://ourwaterourworld.com/QuickLinks/BeneficialInsects.aspx>

California Childcare Health Program, University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing • cchp.ucsf.edu



Funding for the Integrated Pest Management Toolkit for Family Child Care Homes has been provided in full or in part through a grant awarded by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of DPR nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.