

THE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HEALTHY SCHOOLSITE



WHAT IS THE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT ?

When pesticides are used at schools and child care centers in California, the Healthy Schools Act defines requirements for school and child care center staff, pest management professionals, and the Department of Pesticide Regulation. The California Legislature originally passed the law in 2000. The Healthy Schools Act also encourages schools and child care centers—collectively referred to as schoolsites—to adopt effective, low-risk pest management practices, also known as integrated pest management or IPM.

WHAT IS IPM ?

Integrated pest management, or IPM, focuses on effective, low-risk pest management practices. IPM is a big picture approach to pest management that considers people and the environment when pest management decisions are made. There are a variety of IPM practices, including cleaning regularly, closing gaps into buildings, fixing leaky pipes, setting traps, and choosing low-risk pesticides. With the amount of IPM information available today and an enthusiastic IPM leader, all schoolsites can successfully manage pests!

WHAT IS A PESTICIDE ?

A pesticide is any substance intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any pest. Pests include insects, rodents, weeds, and germs. Insecticides, rodenticides, herbicides, sanitizers, and disinfectants are all pesticides.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT REQUIREMENTS ?

IDENTIFY



Choose an IPM coordinator who will make sure the requirements of the HSA are met.



TRAIN

Provide annual Healthy Schools Act training to all teachers, staff, and volunteers who use any pesticides, including exempt pesticides.



NOTIFY

Send an annual notification to all parents, guardians, and staff of all pesticides expected to be applied during the year.



REGISTER

Give parents, guardians, and staff the opportunity to register to be notified 72 hours in advance of individual pesticide applications.

PLAN



Create a plan for IPM and publish it on the school, district, or child care center website. If a website does not exist, include the plan in the annual written notification.



POST

Post warning signs in the area where a pesticide will be applied, at least 24 hours before and 72 hours after the application.



RECORD

Keep records of pesticide applications, and file these records for at least 4 years.



REPORT

Submit annual pesticide use reports to DPR by January 30 for the previous year's applications. Only report pesticide use by school personnel.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED PEST CONTROL BUSINESSES ?

TRAIN



Complete Healthy Schools Act training during each license renewal period.

REPORT



Submit annual pesticide use reports to DPR by January 30 for the previous year's applications.

When contracting with a licensed pest control business, the schoolsite IPM Coordinator should provide information about the Healthy Schools Act. The IPM Coordinator can also specify in the pest management contract what IPM practices will be used and how pesticide use information will be provided to the schoolsite.

WHAT PESTICIDES CANNOT BE USED AT SCHOOLS ?

The Healthy Schools Act prohibits certain pesticide products from being used at schools and child care centers. Check the Pesticides Prohibited from Use on California Schoolsites list on the School and Child Care IPM website to see the most current version.

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION'S ROLE ?

The Department of Pesticide Regulation is the lead state agency providing Healthy Schools Act compliance assistance to schoolsites throughout California. By conducting a variety of outreach and training activities, the Department of Pesticide Regulation's School and Child Care IPM Team helps schoolsites implement IPM practices and shares IPM success stories statewide. The School and Child Care IPM Team is a resource for schoolsite staff, pest management professionals, parents, teachers, and the public who want more information about IPM and the Healthy Schools Act.

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ROLE ?

The Healthy Schools Act requirements for schoolsites are in the California Education Code. The California Department of Education and the Department of Pesticide Regulation work together to interpret the law and provide accurate information to schoolsites throughout California. The California Department of Education also acts as an advisory resource for school districts, charter schools, and other local education agencies.

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES'S ROLE ?

The Child Care Licensing Program of the Department of Social Services acts as a liaison between licensed child care facilities and the Department of Pesticide Regulation. With over 40,000 licensed child care facilities in California, the Department of Pesticide Regulation relies on the Child Care Licensing Program to share Healthy Schools Act information through newsletters, conferences, and other networks. The Child Care Licensing Program also includes Healthy Schools Act and IPM information in the training orientation required for new licenses.

HOW CAN YOU GET MORE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT INFORMATION ?



<http://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/>



school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov



School Integrated Pest Management
Integrated Pest Management
for Child Care Centers

Healthy Schools Act Requirements for Public K-12 Schools and Child Care Centers



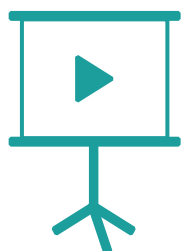
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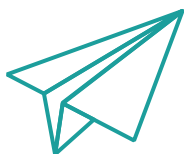
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Visit our website: <http://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/>

Questions? Email us at: school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov

HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT EXEMPT PESTICIDES

Anyone using these products at schoolsites must receive HSA training.
IPM plan, posting, notification, recordkeeping, and reporting are not required.

Self-contained bait stations



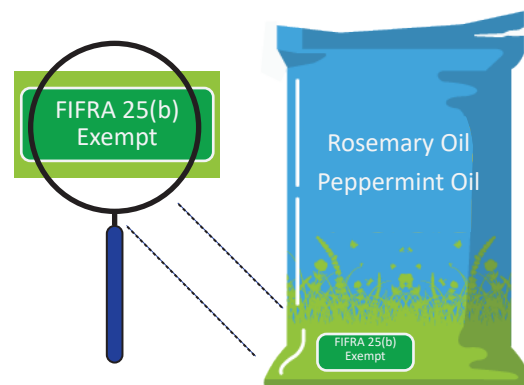
Gel and paste crack-and-crevice treatments



Antimicrobial pesticides



FIFRA 25(b) minimum-risk pesticides



U.S. EPA registration number will not
appear on these product labels

Pest Control Businesses ONLY: In addition to training, licensed pest
control businesses report all registered pesticides used at schoolsites.

IPM for Child Care Programs

Integrated pest management, or IPM, is any approach that uses the least-toxic, effective method to solve pest problems. Proactively managing pests with IPM at child care facilities can help maintain clean, healthy, and safe spaces. With the help of staff and pest management professionals, all child care programs can successfully manage pests with IPM!

IPM practices that can be done by child care program staff:



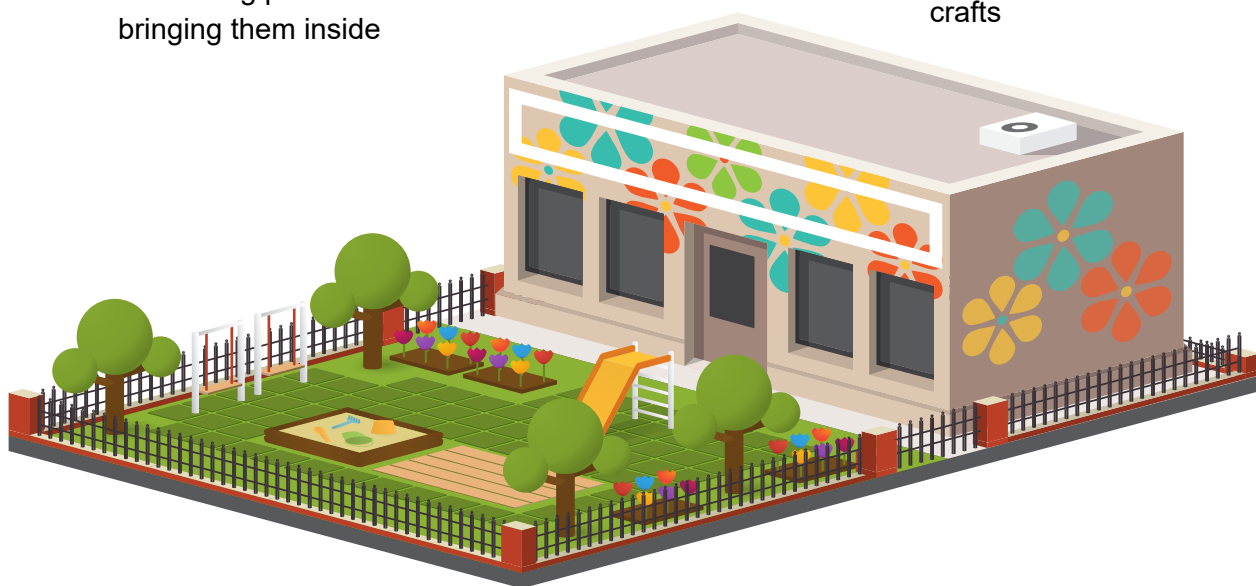
Eliminate pest ACCESS:

- Find and close gaps and holes in screens, walls, around pipes, or other areas into the building
- Look for light coming in underneath any outside doors, and have door sweeps installed
- Inspect all deliveries for hitchhiking pests before bringing them inside



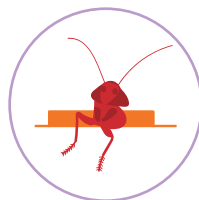
Remove pest FOOD:

- Empty trash cans daily and keep the areas around dumpsters clean
- Serve meals in designated eating areas and clean up promptly after meals
- Send art projects home with children, especially food-based crafts



Dry up pest WATER:

- Have leaky pipes fixed
- Keep under-sink cabinets clean, dry, and clutter-free
- Eliminate stagnant water from inside and outside areas



Get rid of pest SHELTER:

- Clean, declutter, and organize storage areas and classrooms regularly
- Use airtight containers, instead of pest-friendly cardboard, and place on shelving to keep them off the floor
- Inspect storage areas and containers regularly for pests

Many child care programs in California hire a pest management professional to take care of pest problems. This is a good way to make sure that you keep pests out of your facility. You can hire a pest management professional to use IPM!

Talking with a pest management professional about using IPM at your facility:

ASK
them to...



- Implement IPM strategies with a focus on prevention, and only use pesticides as a last resort
- Keep you updated on their inspection, monitoring, and prevention activities
- Tell you if there are potential access, food, water, or shelter sources that could attract pest
- Apply pesticides in areas inaccessible to the children, or when no children will be on the property
- Use pesticides that are the lowest risk available and exempt from the [Healthy Schools Act requirements](#), such as [self-contained baits](#), crack and crevice gels/pastes, and minimum-risk pesticides exempt from EPA registration

VERIFY
they...



- Are licensed to provide pest control services by checking for their [DPR license](#) and/or their [Structural Pest Control Board license](#)
- Have been [trained in IPM](#) as required by the Healthy Schools Act

An IPM partnership between child care staff and pest management professionals in child care programs is a group effort that can be very effective. IPM may look different from what you're used to, but it can be just as successful at managing all types of pests. By using IPM, you can help to create healthy learning environments for the children in your care.

How pest management professional IPM practices might look:

They
MAY...



- Spend their time inspecting the property, monitoring for pests, and implementing prevention tactics instead of applying pesticides
- Use low-risk, Healthy Schools Act-exempt pesticides such as self-contained baits, crack and crevice gels/pastes, and minimum-risk pesticides exempt from EPA registration
- Point out issues that need to be addressed, such as gaps in buildings and leaky pipes
- Set out traps
- Ask you to be patient because IPM takes time and you may not see results right away



For more tips to help your child care program implement successful IPM strategies, visit the Child Care IPM Program website at cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm or email us at ccipmlist@cdpr.ca.gov



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: **ANTS**

Columns of ants marching through playrooms, eating areas and kitchens in early care and education programs are a common problem. Don't panic! There are safe and effective ways to reduce the number of invading ants. Integrated pest management (IPM) is a strategy to prevent ant invasions, minimize pesticide use and reduce harmful exposure to children, staff and the environment.

When are ants a problem?

Some ants bite or sting, but most ants in California do not threaten human health, and they help control other pests like fleas, caterpillars and termites. A few ants sting, like the native fire ants and harvester ants, which live outdoors. The most aggressive stinging ant is the red imported fire ant, which has been found in southern California. If you suspect a fire ant infestation, report it to your county agricultural commissioner.

Characteristics and habits

Ants look for food and water to take back to their nests. They may appear suddenly in buildings if other food sources become unavailable or weather conditions change. Ants live in soil next to buildings, along sidewalks, and under stones, tree stumps, plants, boards or other protected places. Depending on the ant species and the time of year, ants eat sweets—especially a sticky substance called honeydew that is made by aphids—fruits, seeds, cooking grease, dead or live insects or dead animals. Ants often enter buildings seeking food, water, warmth and shelter, or refuge from dry, hot weather or flooded conditions.

The most common ant in California is the Argentine ant. Other ant pests include the pharaoh ant, pavement ant, odorous house ant, thief ant and velvety tree ant.

A new colony is usually established by a newly mated queen. As the colony grows over the years, it produces winged male and female ants, which leave the nest to mate and form new colonies. Unlike other ant species in California, Argentine ants have colonies that blend together to make up one large super colony with many queens. This is one reason completely eliminating these ants is impossible.

IPM strategies

1 DON'T SPRAY!

Spraying pesticides may kill ants, but spraying will expose staff and children to harmful chemicals, and doesn't eliminate ants in their nests. Pesticide residues can build up indoors where children spend a lot of time. Ant management should focus on good sanitation and maintenance, not on spraying pesticides.

Ant management requires continuous effort and its goal is to reduce the number of ants in ECE programs. You don't have to completely eliminate ants from outdoor areas because ants help control other pests like fleas, caterpillars and termites.

2 KEEP ANTS OUT

- ▶ When you see ant trails in your building, follow the ants to their entry point. Caulk cracks around foundations or openings that provide entry from outside. Pay special attention to where wires and pipes enter the building, because this is a favorite entry point for ants.
- ▶ Keep plants and mulch at least 12 inches from the foundations of buildings; they provide nesting sites for ants.

3 REMOVE ANTS' FOOD, WATER AND SHELTER

- ▶ Store food items such as snacks, sugar, syrup, honey and pet food in closed containers.
- ▶ Wipe spills from outer surfaces of containers, and from counters, tables and floors.
- ▶ Remove garbage from the kitchen at the end of each day.
- ▶ Repair leaky sinks and pipes.
- ▶ Seal indoor cracks and crevices.



ACTION PLAN FOR ANTS

WHEN TO TAKE ACTION	NONPESTICIDE PRACTICES	LEAST HARMFUL PESTICIDE	LAST RESORT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ If you see a few ants inside, there are likely to be more soon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Clean up ants using a sponge or paper towel with soapy water. ▶ Fill any ant entryways with caulk or petroleum jelly. ▶ Remove infested potted plants. ▶ Clean up food sources. ▶ Eliminate leaks or water sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Rely on baits, a non-spray pesticide, to manage the ants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ If you hire a PMP, insist that they use baits rather than perimeter treatments or monthly sprays.

When should you hire a pest management professional (PMP)?

If ants continue to plague you indoors, work with a PMP who practices IPM to create a management plan. Pesticides should only be used as a last resort.

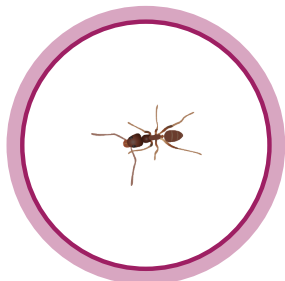
RESOURCES

University of California Statewide IPM—Ants
www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7411.html
 Our Water, Our World—Controlling Ants in Your House
ourwaterourworld.org.dnnmax.com/Portals/o/documents/pdf/Ants%2009.pdf
 County Agricultural Commissioner List (if you think you have red imported fire ants)
www.cdffa.ca.gov/exec/county/county_contacts.html

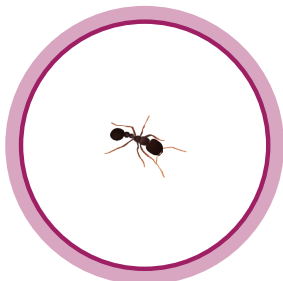
California Childcare Health Program, University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing • cchp.ucsf.edu



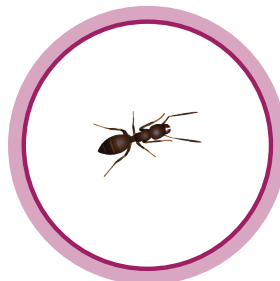
Identification



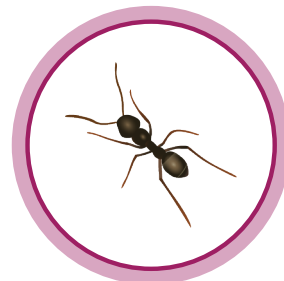
Argentine Ant



Odorous Ant



Pavement Ant



Carpenter Ant

Management

Insecticides

Pesticidal sprays are a temporary solution and should be used as a last resort.

Sanitation

Place food in sealed containers and clean-up any food or water spills that may attract ants indoors.

Baiting

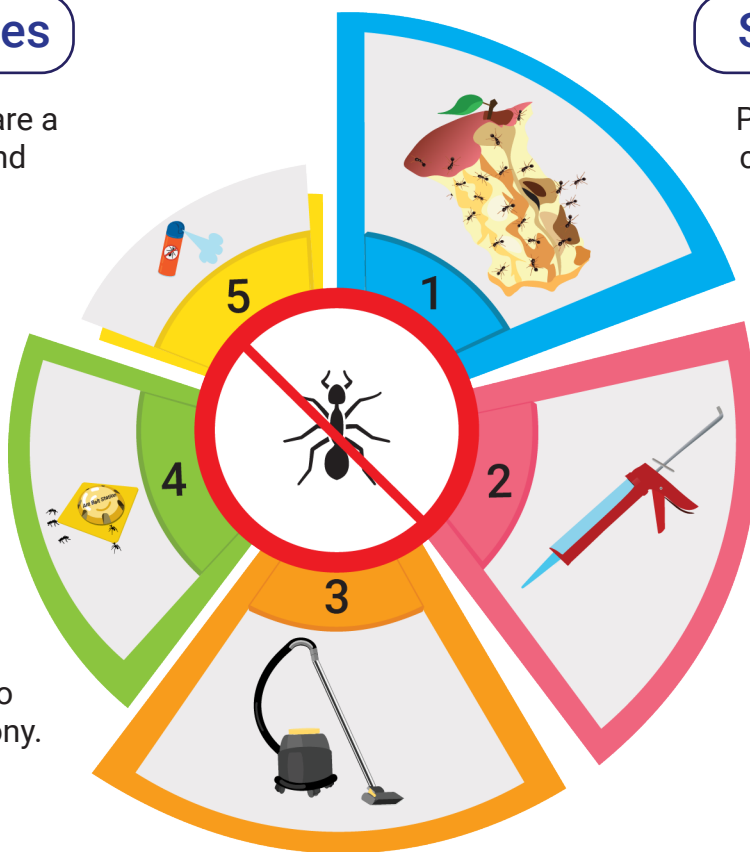
If pesticides are needed, use baits to provide long-term control. Baits take advantage of the ants food sharing behavior to eliminate the colony.

Prevention

Seal gaps, cracks, and any access points that ants are using to enter inside.

Vacuuming

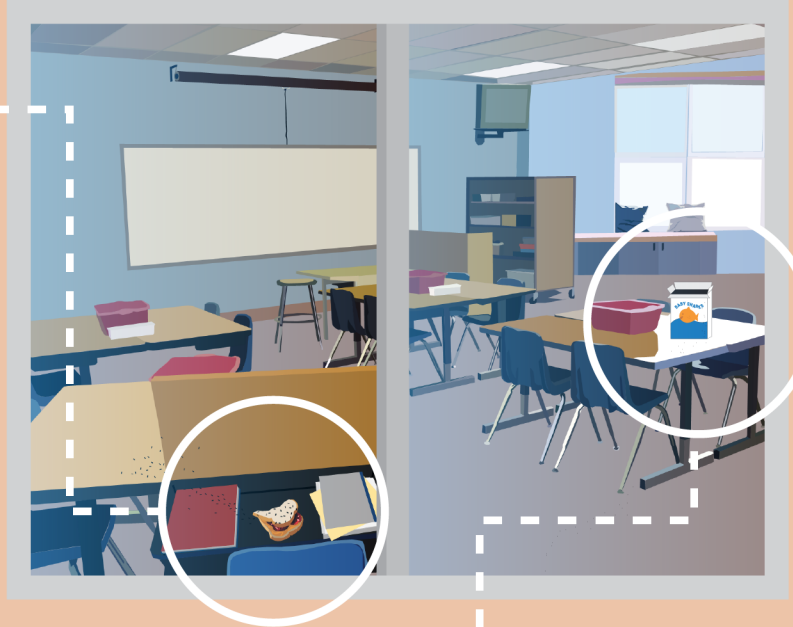
Mechanically remove ants and wipe the pheromone trail with soapy water.



Managing Conducive Conditions

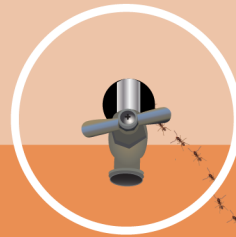
Sanitation

Clean-up food and water that may attract ants indoors.



Access Points

Seal gaps and cracks to prevent ants from entering indoor areas.

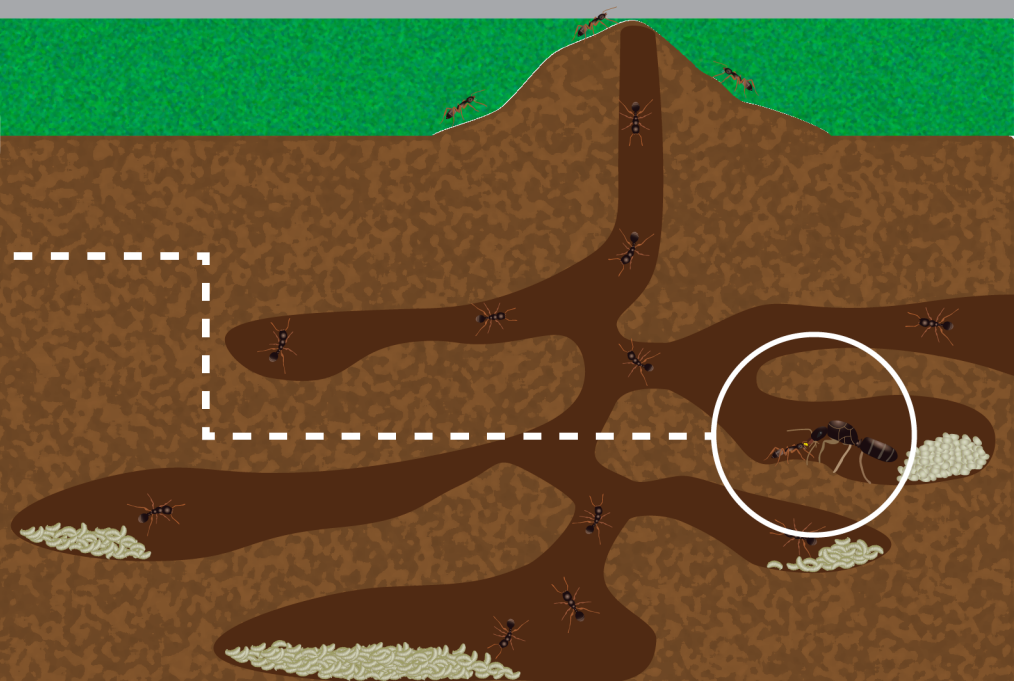


Food Storage

Keep food in tightly sealed containers to reduce food sources for ants.

Ant Behavior

Ants are social insects that live in colonies. The worker ants find food and share it with other workers, larvae and queen(s). This behavior is why slow-acting baits are effective in killing the colony.



WHAT ABOUT CHILD CARE PROPERTY OWNERS?



**Do you own or manage a property where a child care facility is located?
Do you have a pest control, landscape or custodial
service contract, or do you apply pesticides yourself?**

A California law called the Healthy Schools Act requires you to follow certain rules when anyone applies pesticides at the child care facility. Under the law, a child care facility includes buildings, play areas, and a 10-foot buffer surrounding any areas regularly used by children.

The rules apply to you, your outside contractors, as well as the child care staff, and must be followed even when children are not there.

Pesticides include anything used to kill or prevent pests such as bugs (insecticides), weeds (herbicides), rodents (rodenticides), and even germs (disinfectants).

IF YOU HIRE AN OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR TO APPLY PESTICIDES, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO:

- Tell the contractor that there is a child care facility located on the property and that the Healthy Schools Act requirements must be followed
- Provide the child care facility with an annual list of all pesticides expected to be used by the contractor
- Notify the child care 120 hours (5 days) before any contractor plans to make a pesticide application and provide the product name, manufacturer, active ingredient, EPA registration number, intended date of application, areas of application, and reason for application

IF YOU APPLY PESTICIDES YOURSELF, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO:

- Take a DPR-approved Healthy Schools Act training course before applying a pesticide and annually thereafter
- Provide the child care facility with an annual list of all pesticides you expect to use
- Notify the child care facility 120 hours (5 days) before you plan to make a pesticide application and provide the product name, manufacturer, active ingredient, EPA registration number, intended date of application, areas of application, and reason for application
- Report all pesticides applied during the year to DPR by January 30th using form DPR-HSA-118 available at <https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/>

Some types of pesticides only require training, and do not require notifying or reporting. These include antimicrobials (disinfectants, such as bleach), self-contained baits or traps, gels or pastes used as crack and crevice treatments, and pesticides exempt from registration with U.S. EPA (25(b) products).

WE WANT TO HELP YOU COMPLY WITH THE LAW!

For more information on the Healthy Schools Act requirements:



<https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/>



ccipmlist@cdpr.ca.gov



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) POLICY FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS

NAME OF PROGRAM

DATE

All of our program staff follow California's Healthy Schools Act (HSA) and practice integrated pest management (IPM) to keep children and staff safe from pests and pesticides. Exposure to pesticides can pose a health risk to children, staff, and others.

1. We minimize pest infestations and exposure to pesticides through a range of practices that restrict pests' access to food, water, and shelter.
2. Our IPM plan is available in our office and on our website, and is reviewed, updated, and distributed annually.
3. An IPM coordinator (name in the IPM plan) is responsible for overseeing the implementation of IPM practices.
4. We regularly monitor for pests and keep records of pest sightings and evidence of pests (for example, gnaw marks, rub marks). We use the IPM Checklist for Early Care and Education to inspect our facility (cchp.ucsf.edu/IPM).
5. We start with nonchemical management practices (for example, cleaning, repairs, and traps) to address pest problems. When necessary, we use least-hazardous pesticides (such as self-contained bait stations and gels) after nonchemical management practices have failed.
6. Prohibited pesticides are never used (list found at apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm).
7. Pesticides, including antimicrobials, are used according to the manufacturer's instructions, and stored in their original containers in a locked room or cabinet accessible only to authorized staff.
8. If pesticides are used (unless exempt from HSA requirements), the type, active ingredient, and time of the application are reported to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation at least annually (using form DPR-HSA-118.)
9. Warning signs will be posted in all of the areas where pesticides will be applied. These signs will be in place 24 hours before pesticides are used and stay in place until 72 hours after pesticides are used.
10. All staff and parents/ guardians have the opportunity to register to be notified about individual pesticide applications at least 72 hours before they are applied. The notification will include the pesticide name, active ingredient, and intended date of application.
11. Written notification is given to parents/ guardians and staff as specified in the HSA:
 - ▶ Any planned pesticide applications in the upcoming year (include pesticide name and active ingredients);
 - ▶ 72 hours in advance of a pesticide application not included in the annual notification;
 - ▶ Every effort is made to provide advance notification if an emergency condition requires a pesticide application not included in the annual notification.
12. Records of pesticide applications made by center staff and/or pest management professionals are kept for at least four years. Records are available to parents, guardians, and staff.
13. Annual training is provided for all staff who apply pesticides, including antimicrobials, on IPM practices and HSA requirements.

Optional: Recommendations for parents exposed to pesticides at work

1. Wash your hands before leaving work.
2. Change your work clothes before picking up your child. Don't hug or carry your child until after you have changed your work clothes.
3. Store and wash your work clothes separately from the rest of your clothes and your children's clothes.
4. Leave your work shoes outside the child care facility before you enter to pick up your child.