

The Maryland Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools Law

A law protecting schoolchildren, their family members, and school employees from unnecessary exposure to pesticides that may have adverse health impacts

Legislation passed in 1998-99 requires all Maryland public schools to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems and to develop parental and staff notification programs for all pesticide applications made in school buildings or on school grounds.

What is IPM and is your school compliant?



The Maryland IPM in Schools Law defines Integrative Pest Management (IPM) for public schools as a managed pest control program in which methods are integrated and used to keep pests from causing economic, human health related and aesthetic injury through the utilization of site or pest inspections, pest population monitoring, evaluating the need for control, and the use of one or more control methods including:

- ✔ Sanitation.
- ✔ Structural Repair
- ✔ Non-chemical methods

To minimize the risk to human health and the environment associated with pesticide applications, pesticides can only be used when non-toxic options have been exhausted or are unreasonable.

All schools must follow these directions to comply with the law:

1. At the start of the school year, all parents/guardians, and school employees must be given the school's pest management plan, including a list of pesticides that may be used during the year.
2. Parents/guardians of **elementary school** students and school staff must be notified by the school at least 24 hours before a *planned* pesticide application in a school building or on school grounds. Notification must occur within 24 hours after an *emergency* pesticide application.
3. Parents/guardians of **middle school or high school students** and school staff *who have requested notification*, must be notified by the school 24 hours before a *planned* pesticide application in a school building or on school grounds. Notification must occur within 24 hours after an *emergency* pesticide application.
4. All schools must notify parents/guardians and school staff one week prior to any *planned* space spraying.
5. Schools must provide a means of in-school notification before a bait station is used in the school.
6. The school must post a sign on the door of the room in which a bait station is placed.
7. Notice to parents/guardians and staff about pesticide use must include: *Common name of pesticide *Location, planned date & time of application * Possible health effects of the pesticides * The following statement: "*The Office of Pesticide Programs of the US EPA has stated: Where possible, persons who potentially are more sensitive, such as pregnant women and infants (less than two years old), should avoid any unnecessary pesticide exposure.*"
8. State reason for an emergency pesticide application.

If your school is not fully compliant with the Maryland IPM in Schools Law, please notify the school principal and Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, Pesticide Regulations at 410-841-5710.

You can also contact Maryland Pesticide Education Network (info@mdpestnet.org) for assistance.