



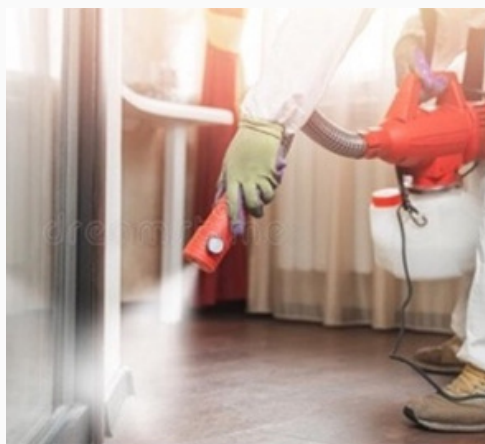
Ensuring a successful pest management program while protecting your vulnerable populations from unnecessary exposure to pests and pesticides.



Toxic-Free Healthcare and Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Healthcare facilities aim to create an environment that promotes patient healing under the best conditions and to "first do no harm." Facilities are increasingly aware of the need to eliminate toxic chemical exposures. A health care facility environment free of pests and hazardous chemicals is critical in protecting the health of the people served by the facility, its visitors, and staff.

Conventional pest management creates unnecessary health risks



Frequent reliance on hazardous chemical pesticides is often the first line of defense used to eliminate pests... the "see em, spray em" approach. The problem is magnified when those served in the facility are exposed to toxic pesticides linked to the very issues they're treated for by the facility.

Physical health risks linked to common chemical pesticides:

- Increased cancer risk
- Liver and kidney damage
- Neurological and reproductive problems
- Respiratory problems, including asthma and COPD

Our Vulnerable Groups



- Infants and children
- Pregnant women, fetuses
- Elderly patients
- Compromised immune and nervous systems
- Asthma and respiratory problems
- Cancer patients, survivors
- Chemically sensitive



Behavioral health risks linked to pesticides include impaired neurological function leading to psychiatric disorders, inducing or exacerbating depression, anxiety, agitation, autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, hyperactivity and impulsivity and developmental delays.



A health care facility free of pests and hazardous chemicals is critical to protecting the physical and behavioral health of your facility's population.

The Solution: Go Green with Ecological Integrated Pest Management ¹

Ecological IPM is a prioritized decision-making process that eliminates pests and hazardous pesticide use, without trading one set of risks for another. Ecological IPM shifts pest management away from pesticides and toward prevention and exclusion through exemplary facility maintenance and housekeeping.

Ecological IPM is a prioritized strategy that includes: education/training, monitoring, pest prevention, action levels, least hazardous pesticides only as a last resort.



Ecological IPM does not use pesticides as a first line of defense. When pesticides are used, patients and staff receive information regarding the potential health impacts of the pesticide used.



Least toxic products include boric acid, silica gels, some essential oils and botanicals, diatomaceous earth, pheromone lures and traps. See detailed information on least toxic products [here](#).

Toxic-Free Healthcare (formally the IPM in Health Care Facilities Project) provides the ecological IPM strategy and support to assist your facility to minimize/eliminate the need for toxic chemicals while providing effective pest and land care management.

Since 2007, the IPM Project has led to the successful implementation of prioritized IPM at many health care facilities in Maryland. This project has been hailed by [JACHO/the Joint Commission](#)² and the [US EPA Pesticide Stewardship Program](#).³ Project partner facilities have received awards for achieving pesticide-free campuses.

Toxic-Free Health Care offers no-cost consultations to healthcare facilities in Maryland.

- Input on your facility's current pest management program through a written survey of current practices noted in vendor log books.
- Model IPM policies, requests for proposals (RFP), and vendor contracts tailored to fit your facility's needs.
- The Project's bi-monthly newsletter keeps you current on our latest IPM educational materials.
- On-demand free training webinars, healthcare-related news, and research



Project participation is open to all facilities and institutions in Maryland that provide health or behavioral care.

The Project is supported by private foundations. For more information, visit ToxicFreeHealthcare.org

RESOURCES: Toxic-Free Healthcare Practices for a Prioritized Strategy to Eliminate Toxic Chemicals



RESOURCES

For a full list of Resources visit

<https://bit.ly/3a0aJoL>

- No-Cost Expert Consultation
- Sample IPM Policy
- Sample Land Care Policy
- Ecological Pest Management and Landcare Guidance
- Sample IPM Contract
- IPM Rounds Checklist
- IPM Least Toxic Products List
- IPM Bed Bug Protocol
- Pest Prevention Training Video
- IPM Strategies Video Series



Disinfectants Website:

[SaferDisinfectants.org](https://saferdisinfectants.org)



Engage with The Project!

For more information, visit

ToxicFreeHealthcare.org

PRINCIPLES: Effective Pest Management and Exclusion Through Ecological IPM

IPM achieves long-term pest prevention and exclusion by reducing or eliminating pest entry points and sources of food, water, and shelter through maintenance and sanitation. The management strategy centers on:

- Site inspection and pest monitoring to define the pest problem and guide actions
- Maintenance and building repair to limit pest entry and within buildings
- Education and cultural shifts so building staff on the front line do their part in IPM
- Mechanical and biological controls and the least hazardous pesticides are only used as a last resort to eliminate pests that gain entry, despite the above measures.

The Need to Choose Safer Disinfectants



The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the unnecessary use of pesticide-registered disinfectants, which can actually exacerbate respiratory symptoms and weaken immune systems. There are safer and effective disinfectants available to health care facilities for every use site and need. Explore our resources.

NEW RESOURCES

- Find safer products at saferdisinfectants.org
- Video: [Understanding Disinfectant Risks](#)⁴

Lawns and Landscapes

Toxic-Free Healthcare extends to ecological maintenance of lawns and landscapes, free of weeds, pests, chemical herbicides, and insecticides. As with indoor IPM, the need for chemical herbicides and pesticides is reduced or eliminated through natural management practices, such as soil health maintenance. See Resources for detailed information on ecological land care.

[3] <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/resources/safety-source-on-pesticide-providers/what-is-integrated-pest-management>

[2] <https://mdpestnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/JACHO-Environment-of-Care-News-Pesticides.pdf>

[3] <https://mdpestnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Fall-PESPWire-Final.pdf>

[4] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYXDB7bBQdA>