

## Complying with Maine Laws

All Maine schools serving any grades K-12 must adhere to the following, which applies to all buildings and grounds including sports fields, gardens and greenhouses, even organic ones:

- Adopt a school board-approved Integrated Pest Management policy.
- Designate a school employee as the IPM Coordinator to coordinate and approve pest management activities.
- Keep updated IPM and pesticide application records for two years.
- Notify parents and staff five days in advance of pesticide applications.
- Post approved notices two days before pesticide applications.
- Allow only people with a valid pesticide applicator's license to apply pesticides on school properties.

Maine Board of Pesticides Control  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
Phone: 207-287-2731  
Fax: 207-287-7548



## For More Information:

### Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry



School IPM Program  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333 Phone:  
207-215-4793  
Fax: 207-287-7548  
E-mail: schoolipm@maine.gov



[www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm](http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm)



University of Maine Cooperative Extension  
Pest Management Office  
491 College Avenue  
Orono, ME 04473  
Phone: 1-800-287-0279  
Fax: 207-581-3881



<http://umaine.edu/ipm/ipddl/>



Northeastern IPM Center

This brochure is supported, in part, with funding from the Northeastern IPM Center (NortheastIPM.org) and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

# Pests, Pesticides and Maine Schools— What You Need to Know



## Integrated Pest Management Best Practices for Healthy, Well-Managed School Buildings and Grounds

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY  
SCHOOL IPM PROGRAM

# Pesticide Use

**Is your school doing all it can to minimize health risks from pests and pesticides?**

State pesticide regulations are enforced to safeguard the health and safety of students and staff at all Maine's K-12 schools. Read Maine's pesticide regulations at

[www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm](http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm)

Anyone applying pesticides on school-owned or school-used properties must be licensed by the Maine Board of Pesticides Control.

## Pesticides include:

- Insect sprays, granules, and bombs
- Mouse/rat poisons
- Ant 'traps' with insecticidal bait
- Plant disease products
- Weed killers
- Any product applied to control insect, weed or rodent pests

## Not pesticides:

- Mouse and rat traps with no poison



Photo credits: Mike Merchant, Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

# Why Use IPM?

**Academic Achievement** – Healthy environments lead to reduced absenteeism and enhanced academic performance.<sup>1</sup>

[www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/student\\_performance/references.html#6](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/student_performance/references.html#6)

**Asthma** – Maine has one of the highest childhood asthma rates in the U.S. Most attacks are due to environmental triggers such as common pests like mice and cockroaches. Pesticides can also be a trigger.

**Disease Vectors** – Rodents and other pests can carry disease, and bee stings can cause anaphylactic shock and death. IPM can reduce pest complaints by 78% to 90% with no long-term increase in costs.<sup>2</sup>

**Children & Pesticides** – Children have greater metabolic demands, as well as anatomic and physiological differences that increase risks associated with pesticide use.

**Teacher Retention** – A recent study showed schools with good environmental conditions have 5% lower teacher turnover rates when compared with schools with poor building environmental quality.<sup>3</sup>

1-“Improved Academic Performance.” EPA.gov. 5 April 2012. <[http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/student\\_performance/references\\_html#6](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/student_performance/references_html#6)>.

2- Gouge, D.H., M. L. Lame and J. L. Snyder. 2006. Use of an implementation model and diffusion process for establishing Integrated Pest Management in Arizona schools. *American Entomologist* 52(3): 190-196.

3- Paladino and Company, Inc. 2005. *Washington High Performance School Buildings: Report to the Legislature*. 67 pp.

# Need Help?

Start or improve your Integrated Pest Management program and comply with regulations—we can help!

**For forms, training materials, guidelines and more see our website:**

[www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm](http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm)



**Or contact us at:**

Phone: (207) 215-4793

E-mail: [schoolipm@maine.gov](mailto:schoolipm@maine.gov)



## For Pest Identification:

University of Maine  
Cooperative Extension  
Pest Management Office



<http://umaine.edu/ipm/ipddl/>

1-800-287-0279

-or-



Identify common pests and find solutions at:

[www.gotpests.org](http://www.gotpests.org)