

# Complying with Maine's School IPM Requirements

All public and private schools serving any grades K-12 are required to do the following (applicable to all buildings and grounds including sports fields, gardens and greenhouses):

- Adopt a school board-approved Integrated Pest Management policy.
- Designate a school employee as the IPM Coordinator to oversee and approve pest management activities.
- Keep IPM and pesticide application records for two years.
- Notify parents and staff five days in advance of higher-risk pesticide applications.
- Post required 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

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



## 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: [Hillary.Peterson@maine.gov](mailto:Hillary.Peterson@maine.gov)



[www.maine.gov/schoolipm](http://www.maine.gov/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://extension.umaine.edu/ipm/>



Northeastern IPM Center

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# 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.maine.gov/schoolipm](http://www.maine.gov/schoolipm)

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

### Pesticides include:

- Insect sprays, granules and bombs
- Mouse/rat poisons
- Ant cups with insecticidal bait
- Plant disease products
- Weed killers
- Any product applied to control pests

### Not pesticides:

- Mouse and rat traps with no poison
- Living organisms such as nematodes used for grub control



Photo credit: Mike Merchant, Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

## Why Use IPM?

**Academic Achievement**—Healthy environments have better student and staff attendance and enhanced academic performance.<sup>1</sup>

**Asthma**—Maine has one of the highest asthma rates in the U.S. More than one in ten Maine children has asthma<sup>2</sup>. Environmental triggers of asthma in schools include common pests such as mice and cockroaches. Pesticides can also trigger asthma.

**Disease Vectors**—Rodents and other pests can carry disease, and bee stings can cause severe allergic reactions and even death. IPM can reduce pest complaints by 78% to 90% with no long-term increase in costs.<sup>3</sup>

**Children & Pesticides**—Children, because they are still growing, are at greater risk of harm from pesticide exposure compared to adults.

**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>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Creating Healthy Indoor Environments in Schools: Improved Academic Performance. [http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/student\\_performance/references\\_html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/student_performance/references_html). accessed 12/10/14.

<sup>2</sup> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/population-health/mat/asthma-information/asthma-in-maine.htm>. accessed 12/19/2014

<sup>3</sup> Gouge, D.H., et.al. 2006. Use of an implementation model and diffusion process for establishing Integrated Pest Management in Arizona schools. *American Entomologist* 52(3): 190-196.

<sup>4</sup> Paladino and Company, Inc. 2005. *Washington High Performance School Buildings: Report to the Legislature*. 67 pp.

## Need Help?

Start or improve your IPM program and comply with regulations—we can help!

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

[www.maine.gov/schoolipm](http://www.maine.gov/schoolipm)



**Or contact us at:**

Phone: 207-215-4793

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



### For Pest Identification:

University of Maine  
Cooperative Extension  
Pest Management Office



<http://extension.umaine.edu/ipm/>  
1-800-287-0279

-Or-



Identify common pests and find solutions at:  
[www.gotpests.org](http://www.gotpests.org)