

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Buildings

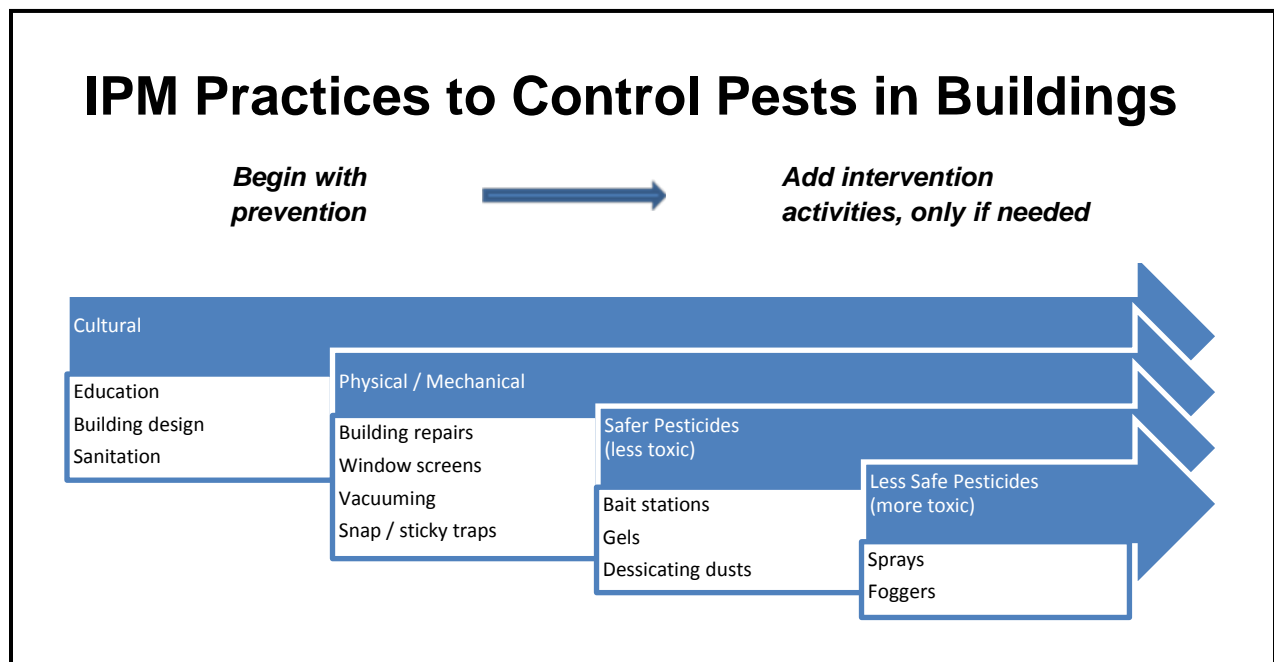
Q. What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

A. Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, is a common-sense approach to effectively controlling pests while eliminating or reducing the use of harmful pesticides.

IPM practices include identifying and monitoring pests in and around your building and using a range of tactics to prevent or eliminate each pest. Tactics include removing food sources, fixing leaks, and sealing cracks and crevices. IPM prioritizes the most effective and least toxic alternatives to control pests.

Q. Can we still use pesticides if we are using IPM methods?

A. Yes, IPM programs use all appropriate pest management strategies, including the judicious use of pesticides if other methods have not adequately controlled pests. When IPM programs use pesticides, they use the safest pesticides in the lowest quantities necessary and in the least-toxic formulations that are effective against the pest. Safer pesticides are less toxic and are less likely to cause human exposure.



Q. How can we find pest control operators who use IPM?

A. These websites list companies that are trained and verified to use IPM methods:

EcoWise Certified, www.ecowisecertified.org;

Green Shield Certified, www.greenshieldcertified.org

GreenPro Certified, www.certifiedgreenpro.org

The Occupational Health Branch in the California Department of Public Health improves worker health and safety through prevention activities.

See www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb