

## **Integrated Pest Management**

Improper pest management problems can cause discomfort, contribute to health problems for students and staff, and affect the overall environmental comfort in a space. Several factors in schools can contribute to poor pest management practices. Some of the most common problems that contribute to poor pest management include: *gaps in doorways, improperly stored food, roof/wall/pipe openings, uncovered fans/vents, unclear procedures for reporting concerns, lack of general housekeeping, improper storage of trash, etc...*

The EPA, State, and some local colleges offer guidance to address common pest problems and have helped assist building managers in establishing preventive maintenance practices to reduce the frequency with which these types of problems occur. Recently, St Vrain Valley Schools has built a working relationship with the Colorado IPM Coalition and have been actively working on evaluating facilities to find opportunities for improvements utilizing Integrated Pest Management Techniques. The District approaches Integrated Pest Management as a preventive maintenance program that focuses on root cause analysis to help ensure returns on investments are those that address problems at the source.

Some goals of the St Vrain Valley Schools IPM program are:

- Provide Facility, Maintenance and Custodial Staff knowledge of common IPM techniques.
- To provide occupants mechanisms to assure ease in reporting pest management concerns to improve effectiveness of response to such reports and increase satisfaction with the overall environment.
- Convey that facility health is a joint responsibility and that it takes a team of proactive occupants, staff and managers to prevent problems and deliver outstanding learning environments.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for pesticide application interior and exterior to the facility have been developed. Comprehensive inventories of pesticides typically used and their associated Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) have recently been compiled. Training sessions were conducted with the aid of the Colorado IPM Coalition for Maintenance and Custodial Staff (even some training offered at the facility staffing level).

To report a Pest Management Concern, simply have your local Resident Facility Coordinator (usually the Head Custodian, Principal and Office Manager at each facility) submit a Work Order through SchoolDude. The SchoolDude Work Order System now contains a Pest Icon, simply select this as the trade in need of notification and the Integrated Pest Management process begins. The IPM Maintenance staff member will conduct a site review to evaluate the environment or condition of concern and determine the best method for management.

### **Integrated Pest Management Concern/Question/Information**

Environmental Compliance Coordinator

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