

PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment; however, the pesticides used to solve these problems carry their own risks. It is therefore the policy of Thorndale Independent School District to use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs and procedures for control of structural and landscape pests.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

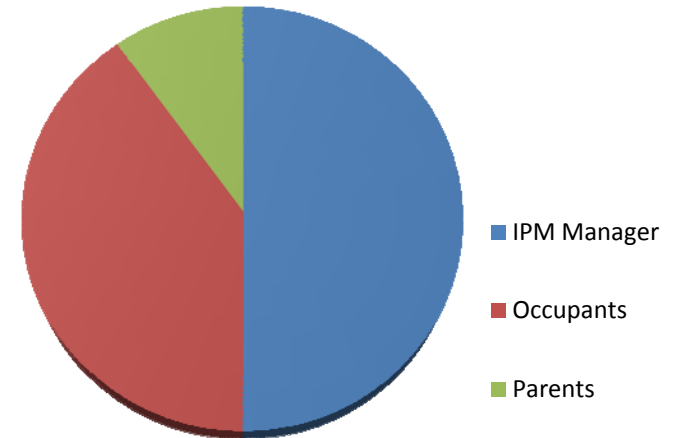
IPM procedures will determine when to control pests, and whether to use physical, horticultural, or biological means. Chemical controls are used as a last resort. IPM practitioners depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment, and the best available pest control methods. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. These principles are implemented by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. It is the policy of this School District to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. While the goal of this IPM program is to reduce and ultimately eliminate use of toxic chemicals, toxic chemicals may become necessary in certain situations. The choice of using a pesticide will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are unacceptable or are infeasible, alone or in combination. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to prevent pest levels from exceeding action thresholds, the least-hazardous material will be chosen. The application of such pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 USC 136 et seq.), School District policies and procedures, Environmental Protection Agency regulations in 40 CFR, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, and state and local regulations.

Notification

Thorndale ISD takes the responsibility to notify students' parents or guardians and the school staff of upcoming treatments which will involve a pesticide. Notices will be posted in designated areas and notices may be sent out with students, if requested by parents.

Everyone has a role in creating a successful IPM Program:



IPM GUIDELINES

1. There are **NO** routine scheduled pesticide applications. Appropriate pesticide applications **may** be used when an infestation is confirmed. Only technicians approved by the district's IPM coordinator and licensed by the State of Texas shall apply pesticides or use any pest control devices.
2. Pest management should be based on the results of the inspections and monitoring.
3. The District has a full time IPM Specialist licensed by the State of Texas.
4. Educate staff and teachers about IPM.
5. To prevent pests:

IPM Managers – Pest proof buildings to keep pests out.

Occupants – Keep facilities organized and uncluttered to avoid providing pests with harborage. Submit a work request at the first signs of the presence of pest activity. When dealing with an existing rodent infestation, droppings must be removed and the area cleaned on a daily basis.

Parents – Make sure lunch boxes/backpacks are taken home and cleaned.

6. Restrict the pesticides allowed to reduced-risk options and the safest application methods.
7. According to school policy, all parents, guardians, and staff should be notified before pesticide applications are made.
8. Limit food consumption and storage to the cafeteria.

The most effective way to deal with pests is to prevent them in the first place. Pests, after all, need the same things you and I must have to survive: food, water, and shelter. Eliminate any or all of these, and the incentive for pests to come in goes AWAY.

FOOD

From breakfast to snack time to parties, food can be found all over school buildings and work-places. The key is to make it inaccessible to pests. Plastic boxes with lids are best. Snacks that will only be in an area for a short time, like your mid-day munchies, can be stored in zip-lock bags.

After all that eating, take a moment to clean your area. Check tables, chairs, and floors for crumbs left behind. This task is much easier if you designate a specific eating area, maybe over tile instead of carpet, and choose foods that are easier to clean up. Be sure to check under the furniture!

WATER

This includes any beverages in any quantity! The two main sources of liquids in a room are spills and leaks. Spills should be wiped up immediately and carpets cleaned thoroughly. Try to avoid sugary drinks in classrooms. Leaks come from problems with faucets and pipes. Report any leaks you see to your Maintenance Department. Try to keep areas around sinks clean and dry.

SHELTER

Shelter is commonly overlooked when taking stock of pest attractions, and getting rid of it can be pretty difficult. What should you watch for? **CLUTTER AND CARDBOARD!** Organize things neatly and leave as much visible area as you can. Corrugated cardboard is a German cockroach's favorite place to live. **USE PLASTIC BINS OR CRATES INSTEAD!**

Texas Department of Agriculture and Pest Control Laws and Regulations:

www.tda.state.tx.us

IPM in Schools:

Schoolipm.tamu.edu/resources/state/texas.htm

Thorndale ISD IPM Coordinator:

Neil Caffey – 512-269-5659 • 512-898-2538

Thorndale ISD Administration

512-898-2538 • FAX: 512-898-5356

Integrated Pest Management Thorndale Independent School District



Everyone has a role...

EVEN YOU