



## Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities: An IPM Newsletter

### UT Online School Pest Management Survey—Deadline for entry is May 1, 2008

Most of you, as the individual in your school district most responsible for pest management decisions, should have received an email invitation to conduct an online pest management survey. The e-mail explained the details of the survey and provided a unique logon identifier. Should you fail to receive your logon identifier information, please contact Karen Vail at [kvail@utk.edu](mailto:kvail@utk.edu) or 865-974-7138. Only one survey can be completed for any school within the same school year.

The results of this questionnaire will direct our efforts to further educate and support Tennessee child-serving facilities in pest management practices that reduce and balance children’s exposure to pests and pesticides. Based on the information you provide on your questionnaire, facilities will receive a rating of “no”, “low”, “medium”, or “high” IPM use. Those facilities rating “low”, “medium” or “high” IPM will receive a certificate and be listed on the UT YEAH web site with the facility’s name and rating. This will let your families know that you are working to reduce exposure to pests and pesticides.

The deadline to enter data in the survey is May 1, 2008.

### Interested in IPM, but don’t know how to request it? See our online Model Bid Specs

If you have wanted IPM in your school system, but didn't know how to request it, please check our UT school IPM web site for model bid specifications. The model bid specs can be found at <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/School%20IPM/SchoolIPMsite/wwwroot/Documents/Lobgook%20coverdividersandforms/parts/school%20bid%20spec.doc>

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**UT Extension**

**How to Develop Bid Invitations for Pest Control Services in Public Schools**

Integrated pest management can be successfully performed by school employees, however, successful pest control districts in Tennessee contract with a pest control firm to provide pest control services. Some schools contract to combine in-house and contracted services. Each approach has advantages and disadvantages; school officials should decide which is needed for their school district.

**Advantages/Disadvantages of Using School Personnel for Pest Control Services (See House Pest Control)**

School personnel providing pest control services may find it easier to communicate and develop a rapport with others present in the school. Cooperation with all individuals occupying the school is needed for an IPM program to succeed. Pest control services can be coordinated with other maintenance jobs as long as the employee is a licensed pest control operator. Also, the in-house personnel are more likely to identify a pest problem before it becomes too obvious. Using school personnel will avoid the difficulty of developing a bid document as well as the expense of the difficulty of showing a reputable and reliable firm. Certain control of personnel and liability are also potential benefits to in-house pest control.

The drawbacks to an in-house pest control include the need to find a competent and diligent staff, the purchase and application of pesticides and equipment. The potential liability of the district is greater than that listed on the label, such as 12 years, because employees could be harmed.

If schools are affiliated with the state of Tennessee, then persons in the Tennessee system can be made with a contract vendor. Otherwise, licensing an employee to apply pesticides in a school will require an initial charge for the licensing system.

**Advantages/Disadvantages of Using Contracted Pest Control Services**

Professional pest control personnel usually are more experienced with the techniques that safely and effectively control pests. School district personnel are not required to maintain contracted individuals' licenses, nor are they required to track the pest control medications. Personnel liability could be reduced when using contracted services. The need for locating a special storage and disposal site for pesticides is eliminated. The district will avoid employee pay for work performed after regular working hours.

Communication between contracted individuals and other school personnel, such as maintenance, may not be as easily developed as in an in-house program. School district personnel may develop a bid invitation for contracted services and a separate bid invitation for in-house services.

**Importance of Bid Specifications**

Through response bid specifications help eliminate the problem of low bids by those that are unable to specify to provide the quality of work some school districts would expect. School officials can begin with the local National Institute for Environmental and Construction Management (NIECM) Bid Specifications Manual (2007). Additional information regarding contract specifications are available regularly about a pest control program. School district personnel should comply with TSSA 2835 the licensing of operators and applicators for pesticides and herbicides.

It is important not to choose a firm by the lowest bid. Use the Weighted Factor Rating System for the Building Pest Control Program as a document to show the most qualified contractor because school districts are under no obligation to accept the proposal (RFP) unless there is bid specifications to allow an evaluation of the bid based on quality and services as well as price. Also, a contract

This school IPM web site, [http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/School%20IPM/sch\\_ipm.htm](http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/School%20IPM/sch_ipm.htm), should provide all the information you need to start an IPM program. We provide links to a school IPM manual, success stories from Tennessee, the parts of the recommended log book which contains all information pertaining to pest management practices in the school, i.e. bid specs, inspection forms, time logs, pest sightings list, pesticide application records form, and many other items. If you have any questions about starting an IPM program or specific pest problems in and around schools, please don't hesitate to contact Karen Vail.

**Special points of interest:**

- > ONLINE IPM Survey—May 1 deadline
- > Model Bid Specs
- > Sanitation is IPM too!
- > Reduce Clutter
- > UT YEAH Contact Information

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Figure 1. Cluttered storage closet



Figure 2. Pest conducive condition.



Figure 3. Classroom clutter



Figure 4. Clutter attracts pests.

## Sanitation is Pest Management Too!

*Faith Oi and Rebecca Baldwin*

As an article was in development for a pest management magazine on clutter and pest control, my computer died. Not even the “blue screen of death.” It went straight to some very bad DOS code (white letters, black screen). Our computer guy came immediately and whisked my CPU unit away. The prognosis was bad. I did have a back-up drive which, in my mind, was supposed to “automatically” back up everything nightly. Not all my files were copied over. I learned a valuable lesson. “Scheduled” is not the same as “automatic”—these back-up programs are “scheduled”, not “automatic”. Which leads me back to clutter.

**Clutter.** I probably lost hundreds of electronic files that day. Do I really miss them? A few, but I was storing hundreds, maybe even thousands of documents for years that I didn’t need or use. I just did it because I had the storage capacity. The Crash forced me to clean up and out. *Lesson #2: Just because you have the storage capacity, doesn’t mean you have to use it.* That’s the start of clutter--electronic or real-space.

In the original article, I had a list of “things to clean” and how to tackle them. There are many experts who make a living organizing others. That’s not me. The goal of this article is to encourage people to start thinking that **sanitation is pest management**. Just think of what clutter provides to help create pest conducive conditions.

**Clutter creates harborage for pests.** Harborage allows pests to eat, rest, and reproduce in the privacy and darkness of their own pesticide-free zone. Take a look at the figures to the left. Do these resemble your classroom? Classrooms and storage areas like these prevent the pest manager from properly monitoring for pests and make it very difficult to treat for them.

If you have areas like these, take a close look. Do you find droppings that resemble pepper or coffee grounds? Are there fecal smears on your boxes? Do you have old cockroach egg cases glued to the boxes? What would you see if you looked with a black light? If even thinking that pests have not only been living and reproducing in your stuff, but have been using your collection of papers, boxes, and supplies as a bathroom makes you angry, then take the challenge and organize.

Credit: Oi, F. and R. Baldwin. 2007. **Sanitation is Pest Management.** *Pest Press* May/June. University of Florida IFAS.

## Why we should reduce clutter?

**Clutter makes it harder to clean.** One of the tricks in these reality television organization shows is that they completely “unload” the disorganized room, sort and toss, then “re-load”. *The rule is that everything should have a place.* If you can’t clean thoroughly, a number of negative pest management consequences occur:

1. **Harborage and hiding places for pests.**
2. **Monitoring will be difficult to impossible.**
3. **Targeting treatments will be more difficult.**
4. **Possible alternative food sources remain to compete with any bait applied.**
5. **Sometimes sanitation is the best pest management. Without it, control will be almost impossible. Bed bugs are a good example.**



Figure 5. Adult bedbug.

*Whoa, did you say bed bugs?*

Sure, ask New Yorkers. They are battling bed bugs not only in hotels, but in schools as well. They are finding them in all sorts of places including, baseboards, furniture, light switches, backpacks and even in books. We all know that bedbugs love clutter, nooks and crannies. Bed bug control is made infinitely more difficult where there is clutter. They can go for weeks without feeding. And yes, I mean control and not just management. I don’t know of anyone who will accept a “suppression” of bed bugs as acceptable pest control. Bed bugs will *not* be controlled with insecticides alone.

Besides not providing a place for pests to harbor, reducing clutter will also increase the cleanliness of the room. For one, you won’t have the pest droppings and shed skins to deal with and two, when things are organized and in their place, the custodial staff will have an easier time with dusting and floor care.



**If you have a cluttered room, the next time the PTA/PTO asks for classroom needs, request plastic storage boxes.**



### Are you the clutterbug of your school?

**Do you still hold on to that box of pencils from 1965 or the prom napkins from 1993? Do you have a box of magazines and newspapers that are starting to crumble from old age?**

**Ask a parent group or local store to sponsor a competition among your teachers and staff. Classrooms and storage areas can be tagged with the clutterbug. Tagged areas would then receive plastic bins to encourage clutter reduction.**

*Reduction in clutter = Reduction in pests.*



Figure 6. Clutter free classroom.



## Resources: UT YEAH and Child-serving Facility IPM Web sites

We have many valuable resources to help you adopt IPM in your schools. Most of these can be found at either the UT YEAH, <http://utyeah.utk.edu> or the child-serving facility IPM, [http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/sch\\_ipm.htm](http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/sch_ipm.htm) web sites. The UT YEAH web site has a broader application and contains information pertaining to environmental health as affected by indoor air quality, lead, mercury, mold, pesticides and radon. The child-serving facility IPM web site is specific to managing pests in child-serving facilities and includes more pest management details.

# UT YEAH Contact Information:

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<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/personnel/Vail/vail.htm>



For more information about IPM in Tennessee schools and other facilities, or to view past issues of *Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities*, please visit [eppserver.ag.utk.edu/sch\\_ipm.htm](http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/sch_ipm.htm) or [utyeah.utk.edu](http://utyeah.utk.edu)

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## National IPM INFORMATION

National School IPM  
[schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/)

IPM in Schools Texas  
[schoolipm.tamu.edu/resources.htm](http://schoolipm.tamu.edu/resources.htm)

IPM Institute of North America  
[www.ipminstitute.org/](http://www.ipminstitute.org/)

National Pest Management Association  
IPM site  
[www.whatisipm.org/](http://www.whatisipm.org/)

EPA schools  
[www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm/index.html)

For further information about the IPM program at your school or in your county, contact your county Extension Agent or the school IPM Coordinator. For county agent contact information, please visit [www.agriculture.utk.edu/personnel/districts\\_counties/default.asp](http://www.agriculture.utk.edu/personnel/districts_counties/default.asp)

**Comments or questions on this newsletter?  
Contact [kvail@utk.edu](mailto:kvail@utk.edu)**

## **Precautionary Statement**

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label.

## **Disclaimer**

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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