



# Healthy Colorado Schools

## PANTRY PESTS



We have a large pantry at our house with pull out shelves – and the shelves are very full. This week, one of the shelves collapsed and I decided it was time to clean out the pantry. There are food items in there that haven't seen the light of day for five years. As an IPMer, I know that they can become infested with insects.

Indian meal moth, flour beetles, sawtoothed grain beetles and carpet beetles (dermestids) are common pests of food items in Colorado. These

destructive pests attack grains and other products from all angles by feeding externally, laying eggs inside the kernels and creating barriers such as webs that do not allow the product to receive proper aeration. See our fact sheet on Insect Pests of Home-Stored Foods <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05501.html>

Schools, too, store food materials – in the family & consumer sciences room, art room (beans

used for art projects), science lab, and teacher's lounge.

December is a good time to go through those materials and throw away what is infested. Often people stop looking for insects when they find the first thing infested. That can be a mistake since multiple items can be infested.

Continue to inspect everything in the pantry and even check items that haven't been opened. Then, **place all food materials in pest proof containers with air-tight lids.**

### Special points of interest:

- ✓ Pantry Surprises!
- ✓ Why Pediatricians Support IPM
- ✓ Concerns About Treating Bed Bugs
- ✓ Get The Dirt Out!
- ✓ Got Ants!
- ✓ New Coalition Website Expands IPM Focus

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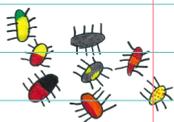
## TREATING FOR HEAD LICE

Head lice cases tend to pop up in the winter because kids' hats and coats get thrown into piles and are shared. Head lice cause intense itching but do not carry or spread diseases; the embarrassment of head lice can be worse than the lice themselves.

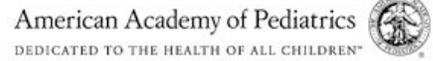
We do not recommend applying pesticides to the school or home. Adult lice usually die within two days without a blood meal. Always keep each child's hat and other clothing on separate hooks. Vacuum the classroom daily if a child is found infested with head lice. You can put

pillows and other classroom items, which may have nits on them, in a dryer and run on hot for 20 minutes to kill hatching lice.

See our YouTube video on tips for parents at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onQLVmfP7XQ&feature=plcp>



## PEDIATRICIANS SUPPORT IPM



The [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) released a landmark policy statement, [Pesticide Exposure in Children](#), and an accompanying technical report on the effects of pesticide exposure in children. AAP states:

*“Children encounter pesticides daily and have unique susceptibilities to their potential toxicity. Acute poisoning risks are clear, and understanding of chronic health implications from both acute and chronic exposure are emerging. Epidemiologic evidence demonstrates associations*

*between early life exposure to pesticides and pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function, and behavioral problems. Related animal toxicology studies provide supportive biological plausibility for these findings. Recognizing and reducing problematic exposures will require attention to current inadequacies in medical training, public health tracking, and regulatory action on pesticides. Ongoing research describing toxicologic vulnerabilities and exposure factors across the life span are needed to inform*

*regulatory needs and appropriate interventions.*

*Policies that promote integrated pest management, comprehensive pesticide labeling incorporate child health considerations will enhance safe use.”*



## GET THE DIRT OUT!



Schools across the country are adopting comprehensive cleaning programs that address the various demands of cleaning in a school environment. These programs include protocols that help prevent the spread of infectious diseases as well as protocols that help **reduce asthma triggers and improve indoor environmental quality**. The NEA Health Information Network (<http://www.neahin.org/>) provides information on best practices for schools.

Teachers and staff can help decrease asthma triggers by creating an **inhospitable** place for pests over the winter break!

**Reduce potential places** for pests to eat and nest while you are away from school over the holidays.

**Take home any food.** If you need to

store foodstuffs for classroom projects, place them in an air-tight plastic container with a lid.

**Recycle cardboard boxes.**

Cardboard is an ideal place to harbor pests.

**Organize supplies in storage closets** and keep only those that you will use.

**Eliminate potential chemical irritants** by removing any bug sprays, air fresheners or cleaning products that you have brought into the school.

**Use only products that are supplied by your school’s maintenance department** and don’t bring in products from home. The facility manager in your school can supply you

with approved products to keep your classroom clean and safe. **Let your custodial staff know** about any repairs that are needed.

**Support the Integrated Pest Management program in your school.**

To learn more, see [http://coloradoipmcenter.agsci.colostate.edu/Communities/school\\_IPM.html](http://coloradoipmcenter.agsci.colostate.edu/Communities/school_IPM.html)



## USING PESTICIDES TO CONTROL BED BUGS

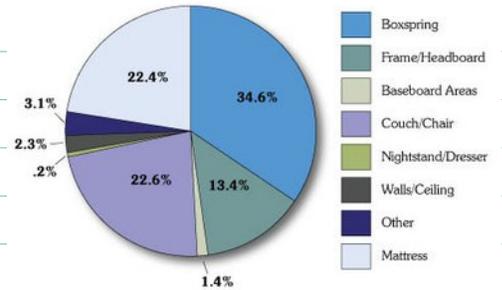
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [HEALTH ADVISORY on 11/27/2012 regarding the misuse of pesticides for bed bug control.](#)

Some pesticides are being applied indoors even though they are approved only for outdoor use. Outdoor pesticides should not be used indoors under any circumstances. Even pesticides that are approved for indoor use can cause harm if over applied or not used as instructed on the

product label. If you have a question on pesticide use, contact the **Colorado Environmental Pesticide Education Program.**

Contact Info:  
**970-491-3947**  
**email:**  
[cepep@colostate.edu](mailto:cepep@colostate.edu)  
<http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/>

### BED BUG HIDING SPOTS



Distribution of bed bugs found in 13 infested apartments  
 Source: University of Kentucky

## HOLIDAY BUGS? DON'T USE 'BOMBS'

Ohio State University's Jones discusses recent research findings relating to the **use of 'bug bombs' to control bed bugs.**

<http://www.pctonline.com/Jones-bed-bug-bugbombs.aspx>

Research out of Ohio State finds foggers have little impact

on modern-day bed bugs due to the brief exposure times, their relatively low concentrations of pyrethrins and/or pyrethroids, and their lack of residual activity. And, the insecticide mist from such foggers had no adverse effects on any bed bugs that were in harborages — their typical location.



[Check out our fact sheet](#)

## ID GUIDE FOR ANTS



Antkey (<http://antkey.org/>) is a community resource for the identification of invasive, introduced and commonly intercepted ant species from across the globe. It was developed through collaboration between USDA's Center for Plant Health Science and Technology

(CPHST) and the University of Illinois. Antkey seeks to mitigate the spread of established introduced ants and prevent the incursion of new with a user-friendly identification tool specifically designed for non-specialists.



[Check out our Ants Fact Sheet](#)



**For More Information About The Colorado Coalition For School IPM:**

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The Colorado Coalition for School IPM is an effort by Colorado State University, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Education, school districts, National Environmental Health Association and private pest control professionals.



**We're on the Web!**

[www.ccsipm.wordpress.com](http://www.ccsipm.wordpress.com)



**IPM JUST MADE IT HARDER FOR PESTS!**

The Colorado Coalition for School IPM (CCSIPM) has just made it that much harder for pests to hide!

The website is still in its early stages of development, so if you have any suggestions for content that you'd like to see please fill out the comment form on the website or email [Deb Young](mailto:Deb Young)

This month CCSIPM is launching a new website that shows how IPM strategies that have been successful at school can be used in homes and other settings to improve the health and safety of children and adults throughout their communities.



To view the website go to: [www.ccsipm.wordpress.com](http://www.ccsipm.wordpress.com)



*Happy Holidays!*