



Healthy Colorado Schools



ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A COCKROACH?

Cockroaches are completely adapted to living with people. We have found American, German and Oriental cockroaches in schools; they typically become established after being introduced in cardboard boxes, grocery bags, or sometimes, wandering in from outdoors. Once they are established, they **can produce several thousand offspring in a year.**

Cockroach baits, in small plastic trays, contain a slow-acting insecticide incorporated into a sugary food attractant. Roaches find and feed on the bait, then crawl away to die. Bait carried back to the nesting area also kills other roaches.

New research shows that, while the insecticide is still effective, the sugary food in the bait isn't attracting some **German cockroaches**. They avoid

bait that is laced with glucose; these cockroaches have evolved so that glucose tastes bitter and they avoid it. This is another survival trick for the insects that have thrived for 350 million years!

IPM TIP:
In the mop closets, mops are hung from pegs instead of being on the floor. Roaches love to nest in a nice damp mop in the mop closet.

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Are You Smarter Than A Cockroach?
- ✓ Welcome Academy School District 20
- ✓ Telling Our IPM Story
- ✓ Summertime Is Door sweep Tme
- ✓ How IPM Can Help With Bed Bugs
- ✓ Mosquitos—Go To The Source
- ✓ Bats Can't Be Excluded Until Oct.
- ✓ Swallows & School Buildings

WELCOME ACADEMY 20 SCHOOL DISTRICT



The Colorado Coalition for School IPM is excited to welcome Academy 20 school district in Colorado Springs to the

School IPM team! Academy 20 has enthusiastically embraced IPM with several pest audits and a preliminary IPM training for all of their building managers.

Additional IPM training will be provided this summer at an all day training for custodians throughout the district.

OUR STORY MATTERS

The **school IPM story** is beginning to be featured in the media around the country and Colorado is no different!

a Colorado Springs newspaper. Deb Young and Clyde Wilson were both interviewed for the story.

News stories are a great way to promote IPM in your schools and communities. If you'd like any help writing an article about IPM for your staff or school newsletter please **contact us.**

Colorado School IPM was featured in a recent article in the Gazette,

You can read the full story here: **Remove Pests In Schools**

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SUMMER TIME CAN BE THE BEST TIME FOR INSTALLING DOOR SWEEPS

School maintenance departments are busy this summer making repairs and cleaning rooms. One of the most important preventative repairs you can do will keep mice from entering the school in the fall – **check all the exterior doors** and, if you see daylight, adjust or replace the door sweeps.

Doors should fit tightly, the distance between the bottom of the door **and the threshold not exceeding 1/4 inch (0.6 cm)**. In some instances, it is possible to

build up the threshold rather than modify the door.

For more information on how to exclude rodents, see [Rodent Exclusion Methods](#)



Even polite mice need to be kept out of schools!

Check out our YouTube video for more tips on how to [Pest Proof](#) your school.

PREVENT MOSQUITOES BY ELIMINATING THEIR SOURCE

Mosquitoes are of concern in the school environment because many species are painful biters and/or are capable of transmitting diseases, such as West Nile Virus. The immature stages of mosquitoes (larvae and pupae) are often found in standing water around the school building. Identifying and eliminating these sites – basically any water that stays still, lacks predators (like fish), and lasts for more than a few days – is the most effective nonchemical control measure. Here are a few things you can do:

- Identify anything outside that can hold water such as plastic bottles, cans, containers, and such. Dispose of items, turn containers over, drill holes in containers or dump out water weekly. Be aware of nearby piles of used tires, which have become important mosquito egg-laying sites.

- Do not allow water to become stagnant in birdbaths, ornamental pools or other outside areas.
- Regularly inspect and clean out gutters and drainpipes.
- Cover dumpsters, trash and recycling receptacles to prevent water accumulation.
- Cut back or remove dense brush and other vegetation from around buildings.
- Keep grassy areas mowed. Alter landscaping to eliminate standing water.



Typical mosquito breeding ground



For more tips visit: [Fight The Bite](#)

HOW IPM CAN HELP SCHOOLS WITH BED BUGS

If you see bed bugs in schools, most likely they came to school accidentally from someone's home.

See our recommendations for school nurses, teachers and administrators ([Bed Bugs](#)).

Simple precautions can help prevent bed bug infestation in your home (from AZ School IPM newsletter):

1. When traveling, set your luggage in the bathtub as opposed to on the bed or floor. Conduct an inspection of beds and headboards before sleeping. Vacuum suitcases after returning from a vacation, and store them outside your home in the garage or outdoor storage cupboard. Launder clothes as soon as you return and use plastic bags to move items directly from the suitcase

to the washing machine

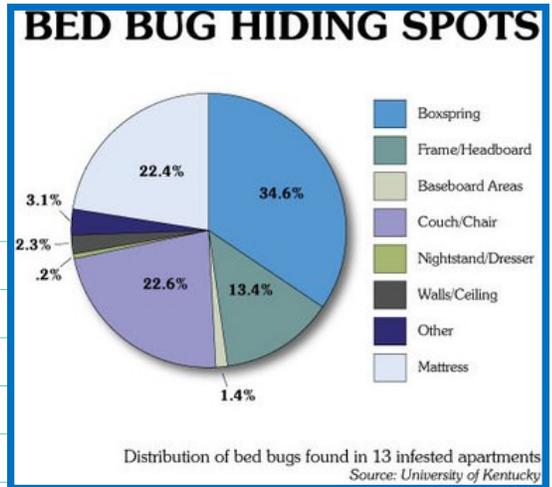
2. Check secondhand furniture, beds and couches for any signs of bed bug infestation before bringing them home.

3. Reduce clutter in your home to reduce hiding places for bed bugs.

4. Launder new or secondhand clothes before hanging in the closet.

5. Launder bedding weekly.

For information from the National Pest Management Association on bed bugs visit: <http://www.pestworld.org/all-things-bed-bugs/>



Backpacks are a common transport for bed bugs

WAIT UNTIL OCTOBER TO EXCLUDE BATS

Bats provide many benefits such as insect control. While bats are not considered a major reservoir of rabies (less than 0.5% of bats are infected with rabies), they may still pose a health threat to humans and cannot be tolerated in school buildings.

Contact the local health department if a person or pet has had direct contact with a bat. There are 18 species of bats in Colorado; all are classified by the Division of Wildlife as non-game mammals and are thus protected by law.

Scott Hygnstrom, professor and extension wildlife specialist at

the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, points out that an **individual bat in a building should be handled differently than a colony of bats.** For an individual bat, Hygnstrom recommends closing doors to limit the bat's access to the rest of the building and opening windows to let it fly out on its own. He cautions that someone should stay in the room to monitor the bat. If the bat refuses to fly out the window, place a plastic container over it, and slide a stiff card underneath.

If you suspect an established colony of bats, Hygnstrom

recommends careful inspection including looking for guano, urine streaking along a wall or bats themselves. Look for areas where bats are entering such as open windows or thresholds, vents, and loose shingles or siding. Consider an evening bat watch, posting observers at building corners to watch for bats exiting at night.

Exclusion is the best long-term solution; exclusion should be used only between the months of October through March when bats are hibernating elsewhere. Don't use exclusion now because it is the breeding season and mothers are feeding their infants.



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.



For All The Latest News Don't Forget To Check Out Our Website/Blog at:
www.ccsipm.wordpress.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION & IPM EXAMPLES CHECK OUT THE FLICKR PHOTO SETS — EXAMPLES OF IPM PESTS & METHODS

SWALLOWS AROUND SCHOOL BUILDINGS

We have had reports of swallows building nests around school buildings. Remember that swallows, like bats, are beneficial – they eat insects. Regular cleaning with soap and water of bird droppings may be necessary.

Swallows have a homing tendency and often return to previous nesting sites; nests are quite durable and may be used in successive years. Right now, the nests most likely have eggs and/or young, so, by law, you cannot remove nests at this time of year. At other times of year, you can wash nests down with a water hose or knock down with a pole – if there are no eggs or young in the nest.

In the United States, all swallows are classified as migratory insectivorous

birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Swallows are also protected by state regulations. It is illegal for any person to take, possess, transport, sell, or purchase swallows or their parts, such as feathers, nests, or eggs, without a permit. As a result, certain activities affecting swallows are subject to legal restrictions. A depredation permit issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service may be required to remove swallow nests.

Exclusion is the most permanent solution – prevent them from building or returning to their nests. Plastic net or poultry wire can provide a physical



barrier between swallows and a nest site. Other methods such as frightening and repellents are not effective.

For more information, see: http://icwdm.org/handbook/birds/bir_e121.pdf.