

Healthy Colorado Schools

CLUTTER CONTROL

If the whole school works together to organize and de-clutter, the pest problems will go down.

It's a fact that we may not want to hear, but clutter does not inspire, it creates chaos ...and, of course, nice places for pests to live. Pests need three things to survive -- **food, water and shelter.** Clutter provides shelter for pests such as cockroaches and mice. In addition, if you reduce clutter, there is increased access to floor spaces and it's easier for custodial staff to clean. It allows the pest control operator to fully monitor your school, which keeps each room pest free. Minimizing clutter also

helps teachers stay organized. It's much easier to keep your room tidy when your cupboards and bookshelves are not overflowing with stuff!

Kitchen staff

Do not use corrugated cardboard for long term storage. German cockroaches are actually brought inside our schools hiding in the cardboard. They feed on the glue starch that holds the boxes together.

Keep pantry shelving free of needless debris. Emptied supply boxes should be broken down and recycled rapidly.

Clutter is also a problem around and in drains: debris blocking and clogging up drains can not only lead to maintenance issues, but drain flies love to breed in the scum that accumulates around the edges. Make sure all drains are clean and have covers, especially sink drains.

Custodians

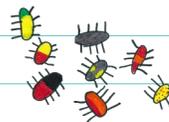
Hang brooms and mops (head end up) on a wall rack; brooms and mops are pest havens as they contain food, moisture and harborage.

Get good shelving. Without good shelving and organization, a custodial closet can get very cluttered and become a high pest area. [Read more](#)

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Controlling clutter is key to reducing pest problems.
- ✓ Online School IPM Survey — Please Help!
- ✓ Backpacks—can serve as a highway for bedbugs.
- ✓ Steps for preventing Hantavirus
- ✓ IPM website offers valuable resources for teachers and parents.

IPM School Survey



CSU is currently co-administrating an online IPM School Survey with Utah State University. Surveys were sent to 176 school districts in Colorado and 41 school districts in Utah. We have 49 completed surveys to

date. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and the information gathered will be used to help expand IPM program offerings for both urban and rural schools.

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FOLLOWING BED BUGS HOME FROM SCHOOL

Bed bugs found in schools are often accidental visitors that have been carried from a student's home on backpacks and clothing. The only way we can eliminate bed bugs in schools is to help families get rid of them at home. A company in Michigan, Elite Pest Management, has an innovative service that focuses on resolving bed bug infestations at home as the solution to detections in schools. "We don't recommend treatments at the school," says Ken Matheny, president of Elite. "If we can't find the source of the bed bugs at the school then we can't stop them from being brought in again, so there's no use wasting the school's money on treatments."

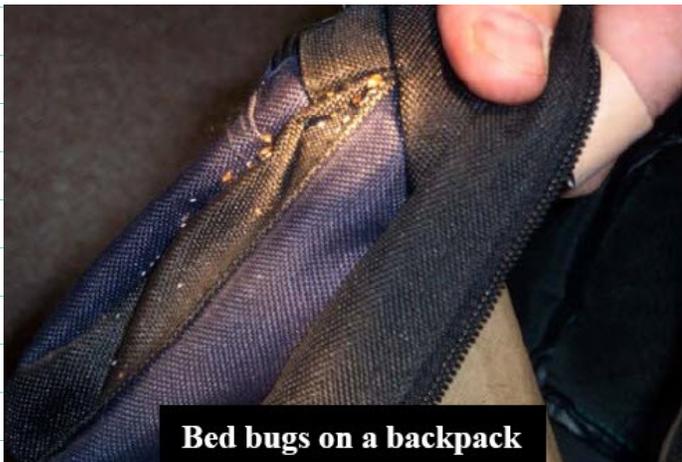
In their IPM service, Elite provides

monthly inspections for a range of pests, as well as on-call services for bed bugs and other pest sightings. Elite monitors the affected classroom if a bed bug is found. They place children's coats and backpacks in clear plastic bags each day, marking them with each child's name. Custodians check the bags for any bed bugs before returning the belongings to the children at the end of the day. This is repeated every day for a week or more until the source of the bed bugs can be isolated.

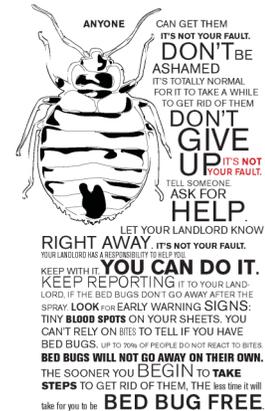
Once it has been confirmed that a particular student's belongings are a potential source, the school contacts the student's

parents or guardians. Elite offers inspection and treatment services, and if a problem is confirmed, provides a treatment preparation form so the parents can prepare their home and belongings. Elite provides their services pro bono to families who can't afford them.

Contact Deb Young at deborah.young@colostate.edu if you know of a similar service in Colorado.



Remember: Anyone Can Get Them!



REMINDERS & RESOURCES

For current School IPM fact sheets and past copies of the newsletter please visit:

http://coloradoipmcenter.agsci.colostate.edu/Communities/school_IPM.html

For more information contact Deb Young at:
deborah.young@colostate.edu

The Colorado Coalition for School IPM has experienced speakers available to present talks on effective IPM tactics and strategies to your group!

We're coming into rodent season—as temperatures drop, mice and other small rodents will be looking for a warm place. Check your door sweeps!

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO CONTROL MICE

Mice are probably the most common pest entering schools in the fall. It's important to control mice because they contaminate food meant for humans; their droppings can be an asthma trigger; and they can transmit diseases such as *Salmonella*.

The first step to managing mice is to repair and/or seal all openings. Clean up food scraps and store foods in plastic containers with lids. We recommend using mechanical traps to control light to moderate infestations. Place traps along the base of walls and in corners of rooms. Set traps in the evening and collect them the following morning.

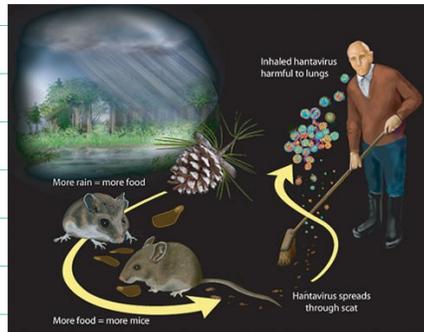
There has been a lot of discussion about the best way to control mice once they are in the school – from poisons, to snap traps, to glue traps. Before choosing a control method, consider what Jodi Minion, Wildlife Biologist for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, says in a letter to Beyond Pesticides: *“As you know, effective rodent management plans focus on repellents, deterrents and exclusion. But if lethal methods are insisted upon, glue traps should be avoided at all cost. The Centers for Disease*

Control (CDC) and Health Canada caution against their use due to disease risks. Glue traps are also extremely cruel. Panicked, ensnared animals struggle mightily, tearing flesh, breaking bones, and becoming more entangled in the adhesive only to die exhausted, frightened, injured, from shock, dehydration, asphyxiation, or blood loss. Research shows that death can take more than 24 hours.”



ONE MORE REASON TO CONTROL MICE AND CLUTTER

This July, a woman from Adams County died of hantavirus. This is the same virus that is responsible for the deaths of three campers at Yosemite National Park this past summer. It is the first fatal case of hantavirus in Colorado this year. Hantavirus is a very rare condition, caused by a virus that is carried by rodents, especially deer mice. People catch hantavirus by inhaling dust that contains airborne particles from



How Hantavirus Happens!

the feces, urine or saliva of deer mice.

If you find mice in your school, be sure to follow cleanup procedures recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (see <http://www.cdc.gov/rodents/cleaning/index.html>).

While it is unlikely that deer mice infected with hantavirus are in your school, take precautions before and during clean-up of rodent-infested areas.

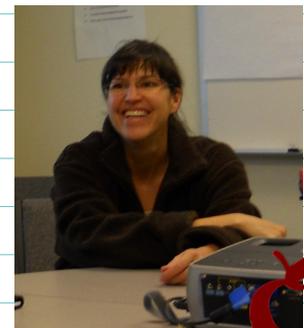
THANKS VELREY!

VelRey Loranzo has served as School IPM Coordinator at the regional EPA for the past several years. She has been the primary organizer for getting the YouTube IPM videos made and posted.

On October 6 she will be moving to EPA's Wastewater division.

We will miss her and wish her the best of luck with her new position!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TSJaDtqAeY>





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!

<http://coloradoipmcenter.agsci.colostate.edu/Communities>



CLUTTER CONTROL Continued:

Teachers

Art Supplies:

Cockroaches dine on glue, and many other pests will consume paper. Keep glue containers clean and capped. Store art supplies in plastic pest-proof containers with tight fitting lids.

Storage Closets: Make sure to only keep the supplies that you will use; as a rule of thumb, if you haven't used it in two years, throw it out. Organize the supplies in the same plastic pest-proof containers with tight fitting lids.

Get rid of cardboard boxes and ask your principal to provide plastic containers with tight fitting lids. Cardboard is an ideal pest harborage.

Have your students do a **15-minute desk clean off / clean out** at the end of each week. This will ensure there is no food, etc. left in their desks over the weekend.

Take the extra time to help improve the sanitation of your school!



Reduce clutter and organize closets, cabinets, and storage facilities to eliminate shelter for pests!