

Healthy Colorado Schools

AUGUST TIP OF THE MONTH: KEEP COLORADO SCHOOLS PEST FREE



If you work in a school, you have a role in pest management. To keep schools free of pests, we need facility managers, pest control technicians AND the school faculty and staff. You make everyday decisions that encourage or discourage pests, and you often know when and where pests occur. When you see evidence of pests, it is important to tell the proper staff so that whatever situation is causing the pests can be fixed. Your school may use work orders or pest sighting logs to record your pest observations (including mice!).

Keep pests out by storing food in tight-sealed containers, making a cleaning schedule for the teacher's lounge, closing trash can lids, and not propping open doors. We want to reduce the number of ants, mice and other pests that enter the school, and reduce the number of pesticides we have to use to control them.

If you see problem areas, your facility manager can place monitoring "traps". These traps offer a 24-hour view of the pests present in an area. Pests enter looking for food or mates, and stick to the glue inside the small trap. It is completely normal to find a few critters on a trap such as cockroaches, crickets, spiders, ants and silverfish. Traps for cockroaches sometimes contain a scent, flavor, or other chemical attractant. Much can be deduced from the trap's contents and position, so please never remove or move one!

Contact the Colorado School IPM Program if you'd like a poster for your classroom (<http://coloradoipmcenter.agsci.colostate.edu/Communities/CSU%20School%20IPM%20Poster.pdf>) on how to keep Colorado schools pest free.

Keep Colorado schools pest free