

Healthy Colorado Schools



FEBRUARY TIP OF THE MONTH: COCKROACH CONTROL

Do you grab a can of bug spray when you see a roach? Instead, use Integrated Pest Management -- a combination of methods that exposes you, your family, co-workers and pets to the least amount of toxic materials.

Cockroaches feed on food scraps and garbage and are known to carry disease, bacteria and parasitic worms. Some people may develop an allergic reaction, similar to asthma, when exposed to contaminated food, dust, or excrement.

Cockroaches are active at night and live in groups. During the day, they live in cracks and crevices that are dark and moist. Remove their food and water and cockroaches have a much harder time surviving.

Vacuuming quickly reduces cockroach populations that you find behind appliances or in cupboards. Just suck them up with the hose attachment.

Place sticky traps or jar traps in kitchens and bathrooms. Trapping reduces the number of cockroaches, but you need to use some other control methods too.

Use insecticide baits, which are available in bait stations or as a dispensable gel. Slow-acting baits work best. Use baits that have fipronil, hydramethylnon, boric acid or abamectin as their active ingredient (listed on the product label.)

Apply dusts in very thin layers underneath appliances, behind walls and around cabinets. Silica and diatomaceous earth damage the waxy coating of the cockroach's body, causing it to shrivel and die. Boric acid is a dust that cockroaches eat when they groom themselves. It acts as a stomach poison, but is one of the safest control products to use around people and pets. Only apply dusts in areas inaccessible to children and pets. Avoid inhaling these dusts.

Keep Colorado schools pest free