



Pest Press



“ I P M – I T ’ S T H E R I G H T T H I N G T O D O . ”

BACK TO SCHOOL, CLUTTER CONTROL

Why Control Clutter?

It ' s a fact that we may not want to hear, but clutter does not inspire, it creates *chaos!* ...And of course nice nesting habitat for pests, which often follow (**Figure 1**). No true clutter connoisseur ever lives or works alone.

Pests need three things to survive: food, water and harborage (Figure 3, second page) . Clutter provides harborage for pests such as cockroaches and mice. By eliminating the clutter in your school, you eliminate one of the three, which greatly reduces your pest problems.

Also, when clutter is reduced, there is increased access to floor spaces, allowing for more thorough cleaning by custodial staff. It also allows the pest control operator to fully monitor your school, which keeps each room pest-free.

Minimizing clutter also helps teachers stay organized (**Figure 2**) . Remember, it ' s much easier to keep your room tidy when your cupboards and bookshelves are not overflowing with stuff!



Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 1: A bad example of organization in a classroom.
Figure 2: A good example of an organized classroom.

HOW do you de-clutter a school?

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. **Rotate out all corrugated cardboard. Buy plastic storage boxes, if possible**
- 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.

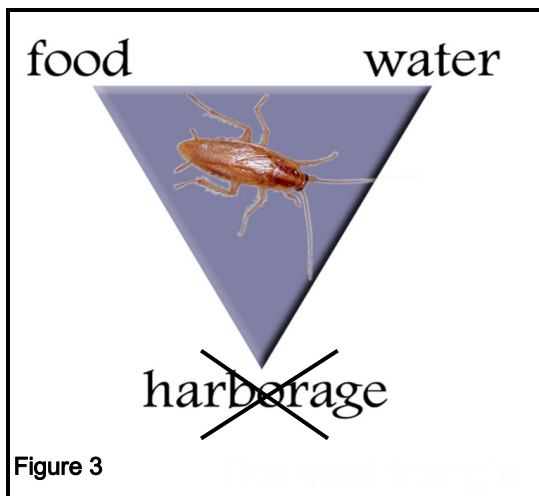


Figure 3: The pest pyramid.

Teachers

- **Art Supplies:** Remember, 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.
- **REMEMBER—NO BOXES!** Because 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.

If the whole school works together to organize and de-clutter, the pest problems will go down. Take the extra time to help improve the sanitation of your school!

 **Bookmark this site:**
www.extension.org/urban+integrated+pest+management
Expert information about pests in and around structures

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8

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