

Alabama School IPM Program

Is your school going **GREEN**?

What parents can do to help

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Going Green?

With the world today scrambling to find greener, more environmentally friendly, approaches to problems, it is important for us to understand that applying less toxic pest control products is only a small part of green pest management in our schools.

There is an alternative to the traditional 'regular application of chemicals' approach to pest control that can greatly reduce the need for pesticide exposure to the residents of your school. This green pest management and control process is known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

School IPM is the greener way to rid a school of pests and keep them gone, which in turn, reduces the need for pesticides. Regular monitoring systems are used to determine if and when treatment for pests is needed, and correct the situation before it become a problem. Exclusion (keeping pests out) and sanitation are also important IPM practices.

How you, as parents can help

- ✓ Find out if your school currently has an IPM program.
For a list of schools that are currently participating in the Alabama School IPM Program, visit [about schools](#).
- ✓ Clean out your child's backpack weekly. This helps to reduce access to food sources for pests, at school and at home.
- ✓ Educate yourself on IPM. Before you can get your school on board, be sure that you have a good understanding of basic IPM practices and the benefits of IPM in a school setting. The University of Florida has produced some short video clips that can help.
Did you know?
School IPM Basics
Life from a Pest's Point of View
To view these three videos, please look under Video/Web-based Training at http://www.ag.auburn.edu/enpl/schoolipm/your_program_video.php
- ✓ Get your PTA involved Ask teachers if they want your help and volunteer to clean your child's classroom.
Even if his or her teacher is relatively organized, things that sit on countertops or shelves provide homes (harborage) for pests.
- ✓ Contribute to classroom organization and pest prevention by donating plastic storage bins to the classroom and getting rid of cardboard storage that pests prefer.
- ✓ Ask your school board to establish an IPM policy for your school system.