

SOP: IPM for Infrastructure Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a common sense approach to managing pests in infrastructure (building, offices, living quarters, stores) and its surrounds. It brings numerous benefits but also a number of challenges.

Benefits

- Better levels of pest control
- Reduces pesticide reliance
- Long-term reduction in costs
- Complies with certification requirements

Challenges

- Expensive to initiate, especially on old/existing infrastructure
- Requires involvement of ALL infrastructure users and contractors
- Requires a greater understanding of the pest species

Identification of pest species

Reduces unnecessary use of pesticides and determines the best preventative measures.

- Pest species, pest population, pest vulnerable areas.
- Maintain records regarding pest populations, frequency, monitoring techniques, pest locations, inspection schedules and findings, along with recommendations.

Identification of action threshold

The level at which pest presence is a nuisance, health hazard or threat and guides the pest control decision.

Cultural control

To eliminate or reduce conditions that attract pests. This is essentially a form of control, that actively alters the environment to make it less hospitable to pests and applies good hygiene practices.

Monitoring

Both the pest population and vulnerable areas need regular monitoring. Levels need to be constantly compared to the action threshold to identify when control is required.



Non-pesticide control

Should be considered first and include, physical (trapping and removal) and biological (abiotic factors such as temperature or biocontrol).

Pesticide control route

Only consider once non-chemical methods have been thoroughly investigated and found to be unsuitable. All legally registered, TIPWG APL, pesticides should be evaluated, with selections based on the least toxic and most selective product.

Education

A successful IPM programme requires a firm commitment from a number of people, ranging from building managers to the tenants, occupiers and service providers.

This is because most IPM programmes require a shift in the way a building or environment is used in the form of the cultural control measures already discussed. Without everyone's commitment to this and willingness to be held accountable, the programme will fail.

Educating infrastructure users and service providers about the IPM programme and why the cultural control measures must be adhered to helps to ensure that they are. It also allows everyone involved to be clear about their roles and responsibilities.

An IPM policy should document *what IPM is, why an IPM approach to pest management has been selected, who will be involved and their roles/responsibilities as well as how the programme will be implemented.* This aid in ensuring all infrastructure users and contractors understand their roles and the importance of IPM.

Areas to address	Availability of water	Access
	Availability of food	Harbourage

Reduce

- Clutter
- Excess food/stores

Remove

- Trash
- Overgrown vegetation
- Standing water

Install

- Pest barriers
- Seals
- Storage areas
- Cleaning routines



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