Integrated Pest Management

Martinsville schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for controlling insects, rodents, and weeds in school buildings and on our grounds. Our IPM approach focuses on making our buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed.

Through maintenance and cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources, and hiding places for the pests. We also routinely monitor the school area to detect pest problems and prevent the pests from becoming established. Some IPM techniques we will employ include monitoring, increased sanitation, sealing entry points, physically removing the pest, and modifying storage practices.

From time to time, it may be necessary to use chemicals to control a pest or weed problem. Chemicals will only be used when necessary, and will not be routinely applied. When chemicals must be used, the school will use the least toxic products which will get the job done. Access to treated areas will be secured against unauthorized access for the period specified on the pesticide label. Notices will be posted at application sites and will remain there until the posted safe re-entry time is met. School personnel will be made aware of any chemical treatments needed.

For your information, we have a list of pesticides and material safety and data sheets (MSDS) that may be used in or near school buildings. This list may be obtained by contacting our facilities and maintenance department at 765-342-7896, extension 1.

**Applying Pesticides**

To minimize the exposure of people and other non-targeted species when applying pesticides, the following procedures will be utilized:

• Choose a pesticide that is labeled for the specific site, intended for the pest targeted, and as target specific as possible, rather than broad spectrum

• Use a spot-treatment method of application, for example treating only the obviously infested plants

• Limit the use of sprays, foggers, or volatile formulations

• Apply baits in crevices when possible

• Place all Rodenticide either in locations not accessible to children or in tamper resistant bait boxes. Securely lock or fasten shut the lids of all bait boxes. Place bait in the baffle-protected feeding chamber of the box, never in the runway of the box.

• Apply only when occupants are not present or in areas where they will not be exposed to the material applied. Note any re-entry time limits listed on the label, and be aware that some residues can remain long after application.

• Use proper protective clothing or equipment when applying pesticides

• Properly ventilate areas after pesticide application

• Notify students, staff, and interested parents of upcoming pesticide applications through notices at school, notices sent home, and posted application notices in treated areas.

• Keep copies of current pesticide labels, consumer information sheets, and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) easily accessible