

OIAQC exists to promote healthy indoor air in Ohio and to promote optimum public health through education, advocacy, technical support and agency collaboration. OIAQC is a group of state and local health departments, organizations and public and private partners focused on improving indoor air quality for all citizens of Ohio.

## Safer Pest Control

### What is safer pest control?

- ◆ Safer pest control is called ***Integrated Pest Management or IPM.***
- ◆ IPM uses the least poison to get rid of pests.
- ◆ IPM gets rid of the pest problem without poisoning people or pets.
- ◆ IPM controls the damage that pests can cause.

### What pests are in the home?

Several kinds of pests are found in the home. Common pests may include:

Insects	Animals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ants</li> <li>○ Cockroaches</li> <li>○ Spiders</li> <li>○ Centipedes</li> <li>○ Termites</li> <li>○ Bees</li> <li>○ Clothes moths</li> <li>○ Flour moths or beetles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mice</li> <li>○ Rats</li> <li>○ Squirrels</li> <li>○ Raccoons</li> <li>○ Opossums</li> <li>○ Snakes</li> <li>○ Birds</li> <li>○ Bats</li> </ul>

### What are the dangers of pest control?

- ◆ Poisons are used to kill pests.
- ◆ Children can be exposed and may get sick.
- ◆ Many poisons are sprayed into the air when used and can be breathed.
- ◆ Poisons can trigger asthma attacks.
- ◆ Many poisons stay where they land for years.



### How to do IPM yourself.

#### 1. Look often in all areas to see if there could be a problem.

- ◆ How many pests are there?
- ◆ Where can pests get in?
- ◆ Where can pests live or hide?
- ◆ What can pests eat or drink?

#### 2. Treat the problem.

*Spraying is unnecessary and can be dangerous!*

*IPM tries to keep pests from getting into the house in the first place*

#### **STOP PESTS GETTING INTO THE HOUSE:**

- ◆ Seal cracks to keep out cockroaches, ants, and mice. Use brass wool in large gaps. (You can get brass wool at the hardware store.)
- ◆ Seal holes around pipes.
- ◆ Caulk cracks.
- ◆ Cover crawl space vents.
- ◆ *IPM tries to keep pests from getting the food, water, and shelter they need.*

#### **FOOD:**

- ◆ Clean up food and crumbs.
- ◆ If you do not **wash the dishes** at night soak in a sink filled with soapy water.
- ◆ **Mop** to get rid of food that roaches and ants like; **flush drains** regularly.
- ◆ Get rid of stacks of paper and trash.
- ◆ **Store food** properly in jars or plastic containers with tight fitting lids.
- ◆ Freeze **flour**, rice and cereal 4 days to kill moth and beetle larvae.
- ◆ Clean and put away **pet bowls** when pets are done eating.
- ◆ Clean and pest-proof garbage storage.

### **WATER:**

- ◆ Fix leaks that provide water for roaches, termites, and carpenter ants.
- ◆ Fix leaky pipes and faucets.
- ◆ Clean up containers of water.

### **SHELTER:**

- ◆ Vacuum and trap pests.
- ◆ If chemicals are needed, use baits with ingredients that don't get into the air.
- ◆ Place baits only in problem areas, where pests can find them easily.
- ◆ **Get rid of clutter** - Paper bags and cardboard boxes make great hiding places for roaches and their eggs.

### **3. Capture the pests**

- ◆ Use poison traps or live traps.
- ◆ Use a HEPA vacuum or a vacuum with an allergen dust bag.
- ◆ Use sticky traps for crawling bugs or rodents.
- ◆ Use snap traps for mice and rats.

### **4. Only use a pesticide (pest poison) when you have to.**

- ◆ Always use the least toxic type of pesticide
- ◆ Always use the smallest amount you can.
- ◆ Always read and follow the directions.
- ◆ Put it only where you know the pests are located.
- ◆ Use a pesticide that does not evaporate quickly.
- ◆ Put the pesticide in places where people, children and pets cannot go.
- ◆ Never spray the pesticide in the air.

### **Internet Resources:**

Beyond Pesticides: The National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides:  
<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/index.html>

Environmental Health Watch Cockroach Control Guide:  
[http://www.ehw.org/Asthma/ASTH\\_Cockroach\\_Control.htm](http://www.ehw.org/Asthma/ASTH_Cockroach_Control.htm)

New York State IPM Program:  
<http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/homesbro>

Rural Action Safe Pest Control Program:  
[http://www.ruralaction.org/ipm\\_strategies.html](http://www.ruralaction.org/ipm_strategies.html)

### **Local Contact Information:**

### **If you have to call a professional, BEWARE if the company:**

- ◆ Cannot show proof of a state license with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- ◆ Cannot show proof of liability and property damage insurance.
- ◆ Uses an unlisted telephone numbers or address.
- ◆ Fails to answer your questions.
- ◆ Tries to scare you or force you to sign a sales contract.
- ◆ Show up at your door uninvited and show evidence of termite or other damage from a neighbor's home as an excuse to look at your home.
- ◆ Claims to have a secret formula or ingredient.
- ◆ Says other companies are illegal or do not provide control.
- ◆ Has a price that is much lower than other companies.
- ◆ Claims to "protect" or "insulate" your home against other invasions.
- ◆ Says they have chemical left over from another job and can give you a deal.
- ◆ Says they are endorsed by the city, state, a pest management organization or the university. Endorsement is not the same as a license.
- ◆ Offers a discount or commission for leads to other jobs.