

Sign up for free Integrated Pest Management (IPM) online training

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You can learn how to reduce pests using IPM by taking a free online course and exploring IPM resources.

- Find IPM trainings:
<http://www.address/here.htm>
- Find IPM resources:
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Sign up for an IPM course to learn how to reduce pests.

What is Integrated Pest Management?

IPM is a science-based, common-sense approach to reducing rats, roaches, or other public health pests.

IPM is an effective way to avoid attracting pests and to keep pests out. When pests are already present, IPM allows people to get rid of them using the safest, most effective methods.

IPM reduces the risk from pests while also reducing the risk from inappropriate use of pesticides.

What are the steps in IPM?

- Conduct a thorough inspection of the area to find
 - » Dead pests
 - » Open food containers
 - » Locations where pests can get in
 - » Pest droppings
- Identify what type of rodent or insect is present.
- Consider the behavior and environment of the pest.
 - » The type of rodent or insect will guide your decision on how to stop or lessen the problem.
- Consider the behavior and environment of the pest.

- Set a goal regarding the number of pests that will remain. In pest management, this is called the “threshold level.” In some cases, eliminating all pests may not be practical. Establishing the threshold level will allow you to determine when to enhance pest control methods.
- Get the community involved. When community members take action through home maintenance, sanitation, and housekeeping pests lose their access to food and attractive places to live.
- Implement two or more ways to control pests. You might eliminate pests’ access to food, water, and shelter.
- **Critical:** Continue inspection to measure and evaluate whether treatments are successful. Decide on next steps based on your inspections.

The CDC IPM program is housed in the Environmental Health Services Branch.