



Integrated Pest Management Best Practices For **SCHOOLS**

Proper pest control is imperative to the safety of schools. Pests that frequently invade these facilities like rodents, cockroaches and ants can compromise the health and safety of employees and students.

Effective pest control in schools facilities requires a partnership between a licensed pest control company and a facility manager to implement an integrated pest management (IPM) plan. This method of pest control focuses on three basic techniques: inspecting for pests, identifying pests and treatment by pest control professionals. IPM plans are most effective when managers take proactive steps to prevent infestations in their facilities.

Schools offer a unique challenge for pest prevention as they experience a significant reduction in foot traffic for two months a year. To continually help keep pests out of your school facility, Franklin Pest Solutions recommends the following tips:

INTERIOR

- Keep food sealed and stored properly, particularly in facility kitchens and cafeterias
- Look for droppings or gnaw marks near food sources, as these could indicate a rodent problem
- Inspect for signs of an infestation, especially in undisturbed areas, including closets, stairwells, storage rooms and along floorboards, which indicate a pest problem
- Clean high-volume areas such as classrooms, cafeterias and gymnasiums daily where crumbs and trash are more likely to build up
- Keep basements and crawl spaces well-ventilated and dry
- Schedule regular inspections with a qualified pest control company that is experienced in working with school facilities to help identify vulnerabilities, survey for, and control issues using an IPM approach

EXTERIOR

- Dispose of garbage regularly in sealed containers and schedule regular garbage pick-up
- Seal cracks and holes on the outside of the school using an appropriate sealant, paying special attention to entry points for utilities and pipes
- Keep tree branches and shrubbery well-trimmed and away from the building
- Install a gravel perimeter around the building to help discourage vegetation growth that could harbor pests
- Eliminate any areas of standing water, as mosquitoes only need half an inch of water to breed
- Repair decaying exterior wood on buildings as some insects are drawn to deteriorating wood
- Replace weather-stripping and repair loose mortar around the foundation and windows
- Don't overlook proper drainage at the foundation; install a drainage system, which will channel water away from the building