

Shortcuts to Sustainable Pest Management



WHY GO GREEN?

Sustainable pest management is safer for your facility, your patients and the environment. While some pest control products can be harmful to humans – especially patients with compromised immune, neurological and respiratory systems – green pest management can fight pests while providing you peace of mind.

Sustainable programs are also among the Association for the Healthcare Environment Performance Improvements Measures that allow you to track operational success metrics. Use the following sustainable pest control best practices to support sustainability program metrics.

GREEN PEST MANAGEMENT STARTS WITH IPM

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an environmentally friendly approach to pest control that uses physical and mechanical solutions to prevent and manage pest problems. IPM focuses on inspection, removing pest-friendly conditions, monitoring for pest presence and documenting pest and pest control activity. When other products are needed, use a targeted application that will create the least environmental impact.

A successful IPM program:

- Involves the entire staff.
- Is environmentally sustainable.
- Keeps records of all product applications.
- Integrates the pest management vendor with the workforce.
- Addresses pest hot spots both inside and out.
- Focuses more on inspection and exclusion than control.

STEPS TO SUSTAINABILITY

- **Use integrated methods.** Effective techniques include improved sanitation, structural maintenance and mechanical controls.
- **Inspect for pest activity often.** Pay special attention to your building's "hot spots," or the areas most likely to attract pests – entrances, lobbies, cafeterias, storage areas and employee break/locker rooms. Regularly check traps and monitoring stations to keep track of how your IPM program is affecting pest activity throughout the facility.

- **Be clear about remediation methods.** Only use products if preventive measures and sustainable treatment options have been exhausted or are deemed ineffectual by your pest control provider. Be sure to use products that make the smallest possible impact on the environment (see EPA definitions).
- **Keep up-to-date records.** Document each pest control service, including all product applications, in a searchable, organized system.

Use a Four-Tiered Approach

1. Identify pests and monitor progress
 - Maintain records for each building detailing monitor techniques, location and inspection schedules.
2. Set action thresholds
 - An action threshold is the pest population level at which the pest's presence is a nuisance, health hazard or economic threat.
 - A defined threshold will focus the size, scope and intensity of your IPM plan.
3. Take preventative measures
 - Remove conditions that attract pests: food, water and shelter.
 - Examples include removing trash and standing water, maintaining clean storage and food areas and reducing clutter.
4. Use proper control when thresholds are exceeded
 - Focus on non-chemical treatments like trapping, heat and physical removal.

MAKE YOUR FACILITY A FORTRESS

Against Crawling Pests:

- Install a gravel strip around the perimeter of your building to deter pests
- Use door sweeps at entry points.
- Set up rodent traps to keep these pests away from your facility.
- Install automatic doors at busy entrances.
- Create a stringent sanitation program to reduce water and food sources.
- Train your staff to look for and report potential pest problems.
- Use sticky, mechanical and pheromone traps for monitoring.
- Inspect all incoming shipments and keep storage areas clean and clear of cardboard.

Against Bed Bugs

- Take an active, collaborative approach.
- Train your employees on the warning signs.
- Work closely with your pest control professional.
- Routinely perform thorough inspections.
- Have a bed bug emergency program in place.
- If bed bugs are spotted, quarantine the room and alert your pest management professional immediately.

Against Flies

- Proper sanitation not only eliminates food and water sources for flies, but it also can remove odor-causing bacteria and other undesirable compounds.
- Use air curtains and establish positive airflow, so that air flows out of your facility.
- Employ other mechanical controls, which include insect light traps and fly traps.
- Seal any cracks or openings in your building with caulk and mesh.
- Install weather strips around doors and windows.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PEST MANAGEMENT PROVIDER

Your pest management provider should:

- Integrate into your facility's culture.
- Create a complete, custom and sustainable plan for your facility.
- Guarantee its service and emergency response in writing.
- Hold experience and demonstrate expertise in the healthcare field.
- Have a training program for its technicians and offer training to your staff.
- Document any pest activity and product usage.
- Keep scientists on staff to create an optimum program for your facility.

GET YOUR LEED CREDITS

To obtain LEED certification in pest control, you must meet specific requirements within several categories. One of the primary LEED standards is that you'll need a written IPM policy and documentation that it was followed. For more information on LEED, visit www.usgbc.org and download the LEED Green Building Rating System for Existing Buildings.

MORE IPM RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS:

[AHE Recommended Practice Series: Integrated Pest Management](#)

[Integrated Pest Management in Healthcare Environments](#)

[Business Case for Environmental Services: Integrated Pest Management](#)

[Pulling Back the Sheets on Bed Bugs](#)