

Annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Notice For School Year 2024 – 2025

Dear Parent, Guardian, and Staff Member:

This notice is being distributed to comply with the New Jersey School Integrated Pest Management Act. Downe Township Board of Education has adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy and has implemented an IPM Plan to comply with this law.

IPM is a holistic, preventive approach to managing pests that is explained further in the schools IPM Policy included with this notice.

All schools in New Jersey are required to have an Integrated Pest Management Coordinator (IPM Coordinator) to oversee all activities related to IPM and pesticide use at the school.

The IPM Coordinator for Downe Township School is:

*Ralph Gale, Facilities Manager
220 Main St. Newport, NJ 08345
(856)447-4673*

ralph@downeschool.org

The IPM Coordinator maintains the pesticide product label, and the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) (when one is available), of each pesticide product that may be used on school property. The label and the MSDS are available for review by a parent, guardian, staff member, or student attending the school. Also, the IPM Coordinator is available for information and to discuss comments about IPM activities and pesticide use at the school.

Your Right to Know: as part of a school pest management plan Downe township School may use pesticides to control pests. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) register pesticides to determine that the use of a pesticide in accordance with instructions printed on the label does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health and the environment. Nevertheless, the EPA and the DEP cannot guarantee that registered pesticides do not pose any risk to human health, thus unnecessary exposure to pesticides should be avoided. The EPA has issued the statement that where possible, persons who are potentially sensitive, such as pregnant women, infants and children, should avoid unnecessary pesticide exposure.

Parents/Guardians and School Staff will be notified when pesticide applications are made@ the school. Below is a list of pesticides used in the 2017-2018 school year.

Sincerely,

*Ralph Gale
IPM Coordinator*

(1) Integrated Pest Management Statement

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on school property is a long-term approach to maintaining healthy landscapes & facilities that minimizes risks to people and the environment.

Pests can cause significant problems to people, property and the environment; many pesticides can cause similar risks to people's health and the environment. To reduce the risk of pests, unnecessary pesticides and harmful effects to the environment, **The Mission of Downe Township School** is to promote an **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program** in our school.

Instead of routine chemical applications, it is the policy of this school district to use IPM procedures for the control of pest. through the use of IPM we will minimize pesticide use and maximize pest control by using non-chemical methods first as a means of pest control, these methods will include sanitation, monitoring, mechanical, physical, and biological controls. Chemical application controls will be used, only as needed and only as a last resort to control pest problems, and the least hazardous to Children, Staff, Parents and the Environment in accordance with Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Laws. Educational strategies are used to enhance pest prevention, and to build support for the IPM program.

The school's IPM Coordinator shall consider the range of options and choices used, when it is determined that a pesticide must be used. Low-impact pesticides and methods must be used first.

(2) School IPM Policy

The New Jersey School Integrated Pest Management Act of 2002 requires schools to implement a school integrated pest management program. The law requires the superintendent of the school district, for each school in the district, the board of trustees of a charter school, and the principal or lead administrator of a private school, as appropriate, to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures to control pests and minimize exposure of children, faculty, and staff to pesticides. Downe Township School shall therefore develop and maintain an IPM plan as part of the school's policy.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures in Schools

Implementation of IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, cultural, biological or chemical methods. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

Downe Township School will always consider the full range of management options, including no action at all. Non-pesticide pest management methods are to be used whenever possible. The choice of using a pesticide shall be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not

effective or not reasonable. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used, low impact pesticides and methods are preferred and shall be considered for use first.

Development of IPM Plans

The school IPM plan is a blueprint of how Downe Township School will manage pests through IPM methods. The school IPM plans states the school's goals regarding the management of pests and the use of pesticides. It reflects the school's site-specific needs. The IPM plan shall provide a description of how each component of the school IPM policy will be implemented at the school. For Public schools, the Local School Board, in collaboration with the school building administrator (principal), shall be responsible for the development of the IPM plan for this school.

IPM Coordinator

The Chief School Administrator shall designate an integrated pest management coordinator, who is responsible for the implementation of the school integrated pest management policy.

Education/Training

The school community will be educated about potential pest problems and IPM methods used to achieve the pest management objectives. The IPM Coordinator and pesticide applicators involved with implementation of the school IPM policy will be trained in appropriate components of IPM as it pertains to the school environment. Students, parents/guardians will be provided information on this policy and instructed on how they can contribute to the success of the IPM program.

Record Keeping

Records of pesticide use shall be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency and the School District. Records shall also include, but are not limited to, pest surveillance data sheets and other non-pesticide pest management methods and practices utilized.

Notification/Posting

The IPM Coordinator through the School Principal is responsible for timely notification to students' parents or guardians and the school staff of pesticide treatments pursuant to the School IPM Act.

Re-entry

Re-entry to a pesticide treated area shall conform to the requirements of the School IPM Act.

Pesticide applicators

The IPM coordinator shall ensure that applicators follow state regulations, including licensing requirements and label precautions, and must comply with all components of the School IPM Policy.

Evaluation

Annually, the IPM Coordinator will make recommendations for improvement as needed. The local Board of Education directs the Chief School Administrator to develop regulations/procedures for the implementation of this policy.

Authorizing Regulatory references

***The School Integrated Pest Management Act of 2002
N.J.A.C. Title 7 Chapter 30 Subchapters 1-12
Pesticide Control Act of 197***