

3524.1/Integrated Pest Management

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: 3000
CATEGORY: Business & Non-Instructional
Operations
POLICY CODE: 3524.1/Integrated Pest
Management

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Trumbull Board of Education to implement the Trumbull Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan to decrease the amount of pesticides used by preventing pest access to school buildings, food sources, and harborage. Pests are living organisms such as plants, animals, or microorganisms that interfere with human uses for the school site. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and the degree to which that population poses a threat to people, property, or the environment. The intent of this policy is to ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, staff, and all others using District buildings and grounds.

IPM utilizes all available pest control methods, such as sanitation, structural maintenance and exclusion, maintaining proper soil pH, fertility and moisture, trapping, and biological controls, along with the judicious use of pesticides, to maintain pest populations at or below an acceptable level. Pesticides may be applied if a pest population has been identified through periodic monitoring, and alternative methods of control have not been effective. The least toxic pesticide would be used first.

Regulations to implement this policy shall be consistent with all federal and state statutes.

Adopted: 8/1/2000
Revised: 5/23/2017

References

- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. §136 et seq.
- Connecticut General Statutes §§ 10-231b, 10-231c, 22a-46, 22a-54, 22a-58, 23-61a, 23-61b
- Connecticut Public Act 09-56, “An Act Concerning Pesticide Applications at Child Day Care Centers and Schools”
- Connecticut Public Act 15-5, “An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2017, concerning General Government, Education, Health and Human Services, and Bonds of the State”

Regulations

I. IPM Definitions

“Pesticide” means a fungicide used on plants, an insecticide, a herbicide, or a rodenticide, but does not mean a sanitizer, a disinfectant, an antimicrobial agent, or a pesticide bait.

“Microbial pesticide” means a pesticide that consists of a microorganism as the active ingredient.

“Biochemical pesticide” means a naturally occurring substance that controls pests by nontoxic mechanisms.

“Lawn care pesticide” means a pesticide registered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and labeled pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act for use in lawn, garden, and ornamental sites and areas. “Lawn care pesticide” does not include a microbial pesticide or biochemical pesticide that is registered with the EPA, a horticultural soap or oil that is registered with the EPA and does not contain any synthetic pesticide or synergist, or a pesticide classified by the EPA as an exempt material.

II. Implementation of IPM

All District employees who use chemicals to control a pest problem must be trained and shall follow all precautions and application regulations. The District will employ only certified pesticide applicators for any necessary and non-emergency pesticide use in school buildings or on schools grounds. Contractors hired to do this work shall give evidence of appropriate training and certification in the proper use of pesticides. Pest control contractors shall be utilized, when deemed necessary, to inspect for conditions conducive to pest problems and to develop appropriate prevention measures. Pest control contractors will be expected to write recommendations for structural improvements or repairs and housekeeping and sanitation measures required to reduce or prevent recurrence of pest problems.

Someone other than a certified pesticide applicator may apply a pesticide in an emergency to eliminate an immediate health threat when: (1) it is impractical to obtain the services of a certified pesticide applicator; and (2) such emergency application does not involve a restricted-use pesticide as defined by state statute.

Pest control applicators employed by the District shall provide the District’s IPM Coordinator with notice at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the date and time a pesticide application is to occur, including in such notice the brand name, concentration, rate of application, pesticide label, material safety data sheet, list of the area or areas where the pesticide is to be applied, and any use restrictions required by the pesticide label. Prior to the application, the applicator shall provide the District’s IPM Coordinator a written pre-application notification containing the following information: (1) the brand name, rate of application, and any use restrictions required by the label of the herbicide or specific pesticide (name of the active ingredient of the pesticide being applied); (2) the target pest; (3) the area or areas where the pesticide is to be applied; (4) the date and time the application is to occur; and (5) the pesticide label and the material safety data sheet. In case of pesticide applications performed for or by public health agencies or emergency applications because of immediate threat to the public health, the licensed applicator

shall give the school site office oral, and, if possible, written notice, with posting of the area to be treated.

The Superintendent or his/her designee may require the pest control applicator to make the required postings in accordance with all applicable statutes and with District policy and regulations. The name and address of the applicator shall be a part of any posting.

III. IPM Restrictions

Pesticide applications shall not be performed within any building or on the grounds of any school during regular school hours or during planned activities unless an emergency application is necessary to eliminate an immediate threat to human health and such emergency application does not involve a pesticide defined as restricted-use by state statute. When such occurs, all students and staff will be removed from the area and not allowed to return until it is safe to do so per the provisions on the pesticide label.

Lawn-care pesticides, including herbicides, will not be used on the grounds of schools with students in grade eight or lower except when emergency application is necessary to eliminate an immediate threat health as determined by the Superintendent of Schools, the local health department, the Commissioner of Public Health, or the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

IV. IPM Notification

At the beginning of each school year and at the time a student is registered, parents/guardians shall be informed of the District's pest management policy. The District's website will indicate that parents/guardians may register for prior notice of pesticide application by submitting a request by first-class or electronic mail to the appropriate school principal. Each school's parent/student handbook will also indicate how parents/guardians may register for prior notice of pesticide application.

Those parents/guardians and staff who register a request shall be notified prior to every pesticide application. Parents/guardians who have registered for prior notice shall receive notice by electronic mail no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to such application. Notice shall be given by any means practicable to school staff who have registered for such notice. The notice shall include: (1) the name of the active ingredient of the pesticide being applied; (2) the target pest; (3) the location of the application on school property; (4) the date of the application; and (5) the name of the school administrator or designee who may be contacted for further information. Notice shall also be posted in designated areas in the school at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the application.

In compliance with state statutes, the Board will post notice of pesticide application not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the application on or through (1) the home page of the school's website where the application will occur; and (2) the primary social media account of the school or the Board of Education.

An emergency application of pesticide may be made without prior notice when it is necessary to eliminate an immediate threat to human health and such emergency application does not involve a pesticide defined as restricted-use by state statute. In such a case, notice will be provided, by

any means practicable, on or before the day that the application is to take place, to any person who has requested prior notice of pesticide application.

Not later than March 15 of each year, a notice of pesticide applications made at a school since January 1 of that year, and between March 15 and December 31 of the prior year, shall be sent electronically to parents/guardians and staff who previously registered for prior notification of pesticide applications.

V. IPM Records

The District shall establish and maintain accurate records of all pesticide use and their location, in addition to records of all pest control actions, including information on indicators of pest activity that can verify the need for action. Information regarding pesticides used and areas treated shall be maintained for a period of five years at each school site and available to the public and staff upon request.

VI. Administration of IPM

The Superintendent shall designate an employee as District IPM Coordinator to coordinate the implementation of the District's IPM plan.

Copies of the Trumbull Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan, including details on maintaining IPM records, will be distributed by the Office of Facilities and Grounds to school administrators for implementation.

School administrators and the District IPM Coordinator will be responsible for administering the Trumbull IPM plan in their schools, including the supervision of custodians and the responsibility of all members of each school community for taking proactive steps to reduce pest activity and access.

School custodians will keep their building clean, monitor IPM maintenance problems, monitor and track overall pest activity and pest control efforts in the field, and communicate staff complaints or other building use complaints to the appropriate school administrator and/or the Office of Facilities and Grounds.