

Waitsfield Elementary School Policy

F40-L: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Policy

The Waitsfield Board of School Directors believes it is essential to maintain a safe, clean, healthy school environment for the welfare of Waitsfield students, staff, and community. Pests can pose significant problems to people, property and the environment. Pesticides pose similar risks. By reducing reliance on pesticides and incorporating low-risk control options, Integrated Pests Management reduces both pests in school building and on school grounds.

Management of a safe, clean, healthy school environment is driven by the following goals:

- a) Prevention of unnecessary exposure of children and adults to chemical pesticides in the school building and on school grounds;
- b) Promotion of alternatives to chemical pesticides while preventing economic and health damage caused by pests;
- c) Prevention of the contamination of soil, air, and water and thus protecting people, animals, plants, and insects from toxic exposure;
- d) Promotion of education of students, staff, and parents regarding pest management.

To meet these goals, the Principal and/or his or her designee shall implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures to control pests and minimize exposure of children, staff and community members to pesticides.

F40-L PROCEDURES

I. Management

The building principal, in consultation with the head custodian, will be the primary person responsible for overseeing and implementing pest management procedures. The custodian, school nurse and principal will be responsible for evaluating the program, including reviewing monitoring reports, annually.

II. Education

- A. Any person(s) involved in pest management issues shall be trained on the IPM method, which includes, but is not limited to the following steps:
 1. Inspect the school building and grounds to determine the pests that exist, their lifecycle and habits and potential sources for “new” pests.
 2. Monitor to determine the seriousness of the problem and if preventative non-chemical means can be used as deterrents.
 3. Establish a threshold to determine at which point the number of pests is intolerable or presents a health risk to the general school population.
 4. Determine treatment beginning with the least toxic methods that will be

most effective and least disruptive.

5. Evaluate IPM to determine effectiveness of program.

- B. Any persons applying pesticides shall be trained and/or certified appropriately. In all cases, the applicator should be fully familiar with the school's IPM Plan. (Note: pesticides include, but are not limited to, insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, fungicides, and disinfectants and other antimicrobial products). If using Class "A" or "B" pesticides, the applicator must be certified by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

III. Pesticide Use

If it is decided pesticides are needed, then:

- A. When the use of pesticides is necessary, the least toxic product appropriate for the job should be used. Pesticides must be applied according to label directions.
- B. The school district will develop a list of acceptable pesticides appropriate for the variety of pest problems existing in the school. Only pesticides registered with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture may be used. If a pesticide applicator desires to use a product not on the list, the product must first be approved by the school's environmental health committee.
- C. A schedule shall be developed to apply chemicals at planned times when the building is unoccupied (e.g. vacations, long weekends).
- D. Signs and MSDS shall be posted per the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets regulations in all areas where pesticide application is occurring.
- E. Definitions of classes of pesticides
1. Class "A" - Restricted Use - by permit only: shall be those pesticides, which may be purchased and used only after securing a special permit from the Commissioner.
 2. Class "B" - Controlled sale: shall be those pesticides determined to be less hazardous than Class "A" under the criteria expressed in subsection 2.b but require some control over where products are sold. Class "B" pesticides are generally for use outside of the home and contain more than 3% total active ingredient.
 3. Class "C" - Homeowner/Specialty - shall be those pesticides which are generally used in and around the home and which contain not more than 3% total active ingredient (Note: Antimicrobial agents such as disinfectants and sanitizers are Class "C" pesticides, regardless of the percent of active ingredient).

IV. Pesticide Use Notification

A. Posted Sign Notification – At least 48 hours before the school uses a pesticide, other than a least toxic pesticide, the school shall post information that provides notice of the intended application on a visible sign, on the school website, and via other routine communication devices.

B. Emergency Pesticide Use – In the event there is a need for an emergency application of a pesticide, the school may apply the pesticide, but only under the following conditions.

- the pest situation poses an immediate threat to human health and/or

environmental quality,

- an alternative pesticide consistent with the policy stated herein does not exist,
- immediate contact with the Vermont Department of Agriculture and Department of Health to discuss the need for an application of a specific pesticide and to verify that immediate application is warranted,
- immediate posting of signs notifying staff and students of the emergency situation (evacuation measures should be taken if deemed appropriate by the Department of Agriculture),
- immediate notification to the School Board and superintendent describing the nature of the problem,
- notification of the emergency application to parents informing them of the nature of the emergency, steps taken to respond to the emergency, and other specifics important to the situation, e.g. name of pesticide.

V. Monitoring

A. It is the responsibility of the principal and head custodian to monitor all uses of pesticides in the school building and/or school grounds. At least annually, use of pesticides should be reviewed, and targeted use of pesticides for specific problems needs to be evaluated. The review needs to include evaluation of if pest prevention and control objectives have been met and identify areas where improvement is needed. Year-end evaluations will be written and kept on file in the office of the building principal.

B. A written or electronic record of all pesticide applications shall be maintained by the building principal or his/her designee. The record shall be completed on the day of the application, maintained for a period of seven years, and shall be made available to the public upon request. The written record of application shall include the following: the purpose of the application the date of the application, a description of the application area, the name of the pesticide and the pesticide manufacturer, the quantity of the application, the name of the individual (company) who applied the pesticide, and, if appropriate, a copy of the individual's (company) license to apply such a pesticide.

VI. Pesticide Storage and Purchase

Pesticide purchases will be limited the amount authorized/recommended for intended use. Pesticides will be stored in an appropriate, secure site that is not accessible to students. They will be disposed of in accordance with label directions and state regulations.