

BUSINESS/NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Hazardous Material in Schools

Pest Management/Pesticide Application Policy

The Board of Education believes that structural and landscape pests can pose significant hazards to people, property and the environment. Pests are living organisms such as plants, animals or microorganisms that interfere with human uses for the school site. The decision to apply pesticide in a building, or the grounds of any Coventry Public School is dependent on results of periodic monitoring for pest populations to determine if a pest problem exists that exceeds acceptable threshold levels.

The intent of this policy is to ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, staff and all others using district buildings and grounds. The goal of this pest management program is to manage pests in order to:

- Reduce any potential human health hazard and/or to protect against a significant threat to public safety;
- Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property;
- Prevent pests from spreading in the community or to plant and animal populations beyond the site;
- Enhance the quality of life and to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students, staff and others.

The school district shall incorporate Integrated Pest Management procedures (IPM) to manage structural and landscape pests and the toxic chemicals for their control in order to alleviate pest problems with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. In addition, staff, students and the public shall be educated, at least annually, about potential school pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives. IPM is the coordinated use of pest and environmental information with available pest control methods to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means with the least possible hazard.

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural or biological means. Chemical controls shall be used as a last resort. The school district shall use pesticides only after consideration of the full range of alternatives, including no action, based upon an analysis of environmental effects, safety, effectiveness and costs. The Director of Physical Plant and Facilities, who reports to the Superintendent of Schools, shall be responsible for implementing IPM procedures and to coordinate communications with members of the staff who

are responsible for pest control, such as maintenance personnel and custodians, and hired contractors when utilized by the district to control a pest problem.

No person, other than a pesticide applicator with supervisory certification under Section 22a-54 of the Connecticut General Statutes or a pesticide applicator with operational certification under Section 22a-54 under the direct supervision of a supervisory pesticide applicator, may apply pesticide within any building or on the grounds of any school within the district. 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.

Whenever it is deemed necessary to use a chemical substance at one of the district's schools, that school must provide notification to all parents and staff who have registered for advance notification in conformity with state statutes. Parents/guardians and staff requesting advance notification must be notified on the day of such use by any method practicable. Notices shall also be posted in designated areas at school at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the application. 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. Those parents/guardians and staff who register a request shall be notified prior to every pesticide application.

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

No application of pesticide shall be made in any building, or the grounds of any Coventry Public School during regular school hours or during planned activities at any school except as provided by state law or regulation.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-231a
10-231b
10-231d

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