

# Integrated Pest Management In Your Home

## What You Need to Know About Pest Control

### What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

**IPM (Integrated Pest Management)** uses simple, preventative steps to control pests without relying on harmful chemicals. This includes removing food, water, and shelter pests need, and sealing entry points. IPM helps keep your home healthier and safer for children, pets, and your family.

### Why is IPM important for homeowners?

Many people use pesticides without realizing the risks. Pesticides can harm the environment, contaminate water, and expose families to toxic chemicals, especially children and pets. Infants and young children are at a higher risk because they play on floors, put things in their mouths, and can reach areas where pesticides may have been used. Early exposure can cause long-term health problems.

### How do I start an IPM Program for my home?

**IPM starts** with preventing pests from getting inside. Simple steps like sealing entry points, cleaning regularly, and keeping your home in good repair can help keep pests away and create a healthier living space.

### What's the bottom line with IPM?

IPM is a smart, safer way to manage pests.

- It focuses on low-risk methods to keep your home pest-free.
- Works best when everyone helps and follows the same steps.
- It can save money while keeping your home safe and healthy.



#### If you have to hire a Pest Management Professional:

- ✓ Call several companies; confirm if they have a current and valid license with the **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**.
- ✓ Confirm they offer an IPM solution to the problem.
- ✓ Ask if both chemical and non-chemical treatment options are offered.
- ✓ Consider hiring a certified applicator who has completed IPM **Category 13\*** training.

\* **Category 13** training is required for all applicators who work in NJ schools and ensures that applicators clearly understand the importance of using non-chemical methods as a first choice in schools and similar facilities.

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