



April 2021

EPA Region 7's monthly Integrated Pest Management Update provides the latest news, webinars, conferences, and other activities related to implementing IPM in your communities. For technical assistance relating to IPM, to suggest new content, or to [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe](#) from this newsletter, please send an email to: olson.bethany@epa.gov.

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Ants



Ants Can Spoil More than a Picnic

IPM for Ants

Ants can be a nuisance pest around homes and buildings. Read these basic IPM principles for controlling ants around your structure and read more at the links below.

Identify

- Properly identify the ant. Knowing the ant species helps with treatment.
- Knowing what the ant needs is vital to making your home or yard less inviting. Check out the resources below or contact your [Cooperative Extension Service](#) for help identifying ants.

Sanitize

- Seal any cracks and crevices that ants may use to enter your home.
- Wipe up ant trails with soapy water to remove any pheromone trails.
- Vacuum up ants. Dispose of the vacuum bag right away or consider adding cornstarch to the bag.
- Regularly empty and wash garbage cans and recycling bins. Clean up crumbs and spills, especially with sweet liquids like soda.

Exclude

- If ants are coming inside, consider keeping food in hard, sealed containers, not cardboard boxes or paper wrappers. Attractive items, such as sugar and honey, can also be stored in the refrigerator.
- If a potted plant has ants, consider creating a “moat” barrier around them. Elevate potted plants inside a larger bowl full of water and detergent keeping them above the water line.
- Keep vegetation around the house trimmed, so that ants can’t travel from shrubbery or branches to the house.
- Fix leaky pipes or clogged gutters, replace any moisture-damaged wood, and store firewood where carpenter ants may nest, away from the home.

Control

- Locate and remove the ant nest(s). Different ant species prefer different nesting sites. The majority of ant species will be nesting outdoors.
- Consider reading about how to use [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\)](#) to prevent and control ants in and around your home.
- If you decide to use pesticides, try a lower toxicity product first. Always read and follow all [label instructions](#) carefully.

(Source with more info: [NPIC](#))

For more resources on management of ants, check out this link:
[Ants Around the Home and Landscape \(UNL Extension\)](#)

School IPM Resources



Are Ants Having a Picnic in Your Classroom?

Here are some tips to help keep them out, and what to do if they begin marching two by two.

- 1. Clean it up:** Ants are attracted to sweets, sugar, grease, protein, and even moisture. Wipe up spills promptly, vacuum or sweep after snack time and parties, and keep those sinks and counters clean! Don’t forget to clean under countertop appliances, too. Take the trash out daily and keep the garbage cans clean.
- 2. Store it right:** Do you keep food in the classroom or break room? Plastic, paper and cardboard won’t stop pests like ants or cockroaches. Store food in clean, closed containers with tight-fitting lids (snap-top or screw-top with rubber seal).
- 3. Rinse and recycle:** Ants are small – they don’t need a lot of food, so a crumb or a drop is enough for a feast. Soft-drink cans and soiled food containers are very attractive to foraging ants, so wash with soapy water or rinse thoroughly before tossing them in the recycle bin.

4. **Plants and pets:** Are there pets or potted plants in the classroom? These can be attractive to ants, too. Plants can become infested with aphids or other honeydew-producing pests, and pet food debris can be an ant buffet. Monitor these attractive situations to prevent problems.
5. **Ants on the move:** If you see a few stragglers wandering through the classroom, you may be seeing the scouts for an ant invasion. Wipe them up with soapy water and a sponge and get rid of them before they report back to the nest. If you see trails of foraging ants, report them! Trails can be mopped up, vacuumed, or cleaned with soapy water and a sponge, but that alone may not solve the problem.
6. **Report the pest problem:** Contact the person at your school district who is responsible for pest management.

(Source with more info: [Pest Press](#))

New Resources on Cleaning and Disinfecting During the COVID-19 Pandemic

According to a new [science brief](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the risk of catching COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface is considered to be low. EPA's new [fact sheet](#) has cleaning and disinfecting best practices and tips you can use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit [EPA's website](#) to learn more.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Best Practices During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Good Idea	Be Careful	Don't Do It
<p>Follow CDC, State, and Local Public Health Guidelines</p> <p>According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 is mainly spread through the air. The risk of getting the virus by touching a contaminated surface is thought to be low.</p> 	<p>Be Careful Using Disinfectants Around People with Asthma</p> <p>Disinfectants can trigger an asthma attack. If you have asthma, you may need to take extra precautions like avoiding areas where people are cleaning and disinfecting or making sure the space is well ventilated.</p> 	<p>Don't Ask Children or Students to Apply Disinfectants</p> <p>Disinfectants are powerful tools for controlling the spread of disease, and they can harm kid's health if used or stored incorrectly. Children and students should not apply disinfectants, and they should be kept out of children's reach.</p> 
<p>Clean Surfaces with Soap and Water</p> <p>Normal routine cleaning with soap and water lowers the risk of spreading COVID-19 by removing germs and dirt from surfaces. In most situations, cleaning is enough to reduce risk.</p> 	<p>Be Careful with Fogging, Fumigating, and Wide-Area or Electrostatic Spraying</p> <p>Make sure your product's label includes directions for the application method. Follow all directions, including precautions. If a product isn't labeled for these application methods, using it that way might be risky or ineffective.</p> 	<p>Don't Ignore the Label Directions</p> <p>If you don't follow the label directions, disinfectant products may be ineffective or unsafe. Do not apply disinfectants to skin, pets or food. Do not dilute disinfectants or mix them with other chemicals unless the label tells you to. Don't think that twice the amount will do twice the job.</p>  
<p>Use EPA-Registered Disinfectants According to Label Directions</p> <p>Disinfectants further lower the risk of spreading COVID-19 by using chemicals to kill germs. Use disinfectants on high-touch surfaces when you know or suspect someone around you is sick with COVID-19.</p>	<p>Be Careful With UV Lights or Ozone Generators</p> <p>UV lights or ozone generators may be risky or ineffective. EPA cannot verify if or when it is appropriate to use these devices. Check out the guidance at: go.usa.gov/xHckj</p> 	<p>Don't Use Unregistered Disinfectants</p> <p>If a product says that it kills SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), but it doesn't have an EPA registration number, it may not be safe or effective. Federal law requires disinfectants to be registered with EPA.</p> 



For CDC public health guidelines, visit: [go.usa.gov/xHckj](https://www.go.usa.gov/xHckj)
For information on disinfectants, visit: [epa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus)

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Source: [EPA](#)

For more resources on School IPM, check out this link:
[Ants and Schools \(EPA\)](#)

Native Pollinator Garden Recipe Cards

The Pollinator Partnership designed recipe cards to provide easy-to-follow guidelines for creating pollinator gardens that provide a diverse and colorful floral display throughout all growing seasons. The recommendations given for specific native plant species were made to meet the unique environmental characteristics associated with each region and the pollinators that depend on native habitat areas. Each recommendation was thoroughly vetted by multiple conservation authorities and can be found at your local native plant nurseries. Download the Midwest Region Planting Guide [here](#).

Upcoming Integrated Pest Management Webinars – Online Series

EPA Center for Integrated Pest Management

- **[IPM After the Storm – Vector Considerations, Part 2](#)**

Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 1 to 2:30 p.m. CDT

Before an environmental disaster or emergency hits, it's important to prepare a response plan to prevent and reduce disaster-related increases in pests and vector-borne diseases. This webinar will address special considerations rodents vector pathogens warrant in urban areas following hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and pandemics. Drawing on past examples, featured speaker, Dr. Claudia Riegel from New Orleans, Louisiana will discuss short- and long-term actions you can take to monitor pest movement and minimize disease transmission through integrated vector control programs.

- **[Mosquitoes: Right Trap, Right Place](#)**

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 1 to 2:45 p.m. CDT

There is a strategy to trapping, monitoring, identifying and sorting the mosquitoes. Learn from experts the importance of mosquito monitoring, how to develop a plan for trapping, identifying and monitoring, and how trapping varies across the country. The question-and-answer session will feature the presenters and panelists from the American Mosquito Control Association. The goal of this presentation is to provide information on sound surveillance and identify trends, patterns, and hot spots to prevent and protect the health of communities. This webinar will provide the attendees an opportunity to obtain continuing education credits from several state agencies and organizations.

Reducing Pest Infestations in Multifamily Housing: Research Updates on Mice and Cockroaches

Northeastern IPM Center

Thursday, May 6, 2021, 1 p.m. CDT

Cockroaches and mice are two of the most troublesome and notorious pests in multifamily housing, but there are effective ways of managing them. Integrated pest management (IPM) strategies can help control or eliminate infestations with minimum impact on residents' health and well-being, and a better understanding of these pests can help guide decisions about how to combat them.

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