

Weekly Walkaround Guide

How to inspect your child care center for pests

- What to look for
- How to prevent and manage pests in safer, more sustainable ways



 Classrooms and craft areas

 Play yards

 Food areas

 Bathrooms

 Exteriors

Classrooms and Craft Areas

What to Look For



Pest shelter sources

Clutter and pest evidence (e.g. webs, droppings, shed skins) in and around cubbies, clothing, hooks, storage bins

IPM Actions

- Organize clutter
- Store items in hard containers with tight-fitting lids
- Unbox all shipments before bringing inside, and recycle all cardboard outside
- Use HEPA vacuum to remove webs, pests, and debris to remove pests and asthmagens
- Report bedbug sightings to IPM coordinator and contact pest management professional

Observations

Example Notes:

- Where were pests found?
- What IPM steps did you take?
- When will this area be inspected again?



Pest food sources

Edible craft items

- Send crafts home with students
- Store edible craft items (e.g. beans, pasta) in hard containers with tight-fitting lids

Notes:



Asthmagens

Indoor ventilation

- Dust HVAC vents with damp cloth to reduce asthmagens
- Request professional HVAC inspection and update
- Ventilate with outdoor air when using sanitizers and disinfectants

Notes:

Play Yards

What to Look For



Pest shelter sources

Webs, wasps nests, pests under and around play equipment

Weeds or ant mounds in pavement cracks

Ant mounds in sandboxes and landscape

IPM actions

- Remove spiders and webs with web duster or vacuum
- Contact pest management professional for wasp and bee removal
- Sweep away mound and ants
- Pull up weeds and sweep away excess dirt
- Seal pavement cracks with sealant
- Bait for ants
- Large, loose soil ant mounds may indicate fire ant infestation
- Notify IPM Coordinator, contact pest management professional

Observations

Example Notes:

- Where were pests found?
- What IPM steps did you take?
- When will this area be inspected again?

Notes:

Notes:



Water Sources

Standing water

- Remove standing water sources from play equipment and plants(mosquitoes can breed in a pool the size of a bottle cap!)
- Contact your county Vector Control District for help managing mosquitos

Notes:



Pest evidence

Animal droppings

Consider removing sandboxes.

Notes:

Food Areas

What to Look For



Pest food sources

Countertops and eating areas

Food storage

IPM Actions

- Clean food crumbs and residue with general purpose cleaner like soapy water or an EPA Safer Choice-certified product
- Sanitize with low-risk antimicrobial pesticide like an EPA Design for the Environment-certified product, follow label instructions and food safety requirements
- Store food in hard containers with tight-fitting lids
- Throw out expired food

Observations

Example Notes:

- Where were pests found?
- What IPM steps did you take?
- When will this area be inspected again?

Notes:



Pest shelter sources

In and around kitchen appliances

- Clean food spills and sanitize food preparation appliances according to product label and food safety requirements
- Use telescopic mirror to check hard to reach areas for pests
- Set insect monitoring traps to monitor for pest populations
- Seal cracks and crevices

Notes:



Water sources

Under sinks

- Fix leaking pipes to remove excess moisture and conserve water
- Set insect monitoring traps

Notes:



Asthmagens

Cockroaches, shed skins, droppings, eggs

- Remove pests and pest evidence with a HEPA vacuum
- Bait for roaches with low-risk gel/paste crack-and-crevice products instead of sprays

Notes:

Bathrooms

What to Look For



Pest food sources

Drain buildup

IPM Actions

- Contact maintenance staff to clean drain debris with drain snake
- Clean drains regularly to break down organic material buildup using a drain brush. Ask your sewer service provider about the use of any drain cleaning products.

Observations

Example Notes:

- Where were pests found?
- What IPM steps did you take?
- When will this area be inspected again?



Water sources

Under sinks

- Fix leaking pipes to remove excess moisture and conserve water
- Set insect monitoring traps

Notes:



Asthmagens

Mold

Fix Disinfect with a low-risk antimicrobial pesticide like an EPA Design for the Environment-certified product that is labeled for mold, follow label instructions

Notes:

Exteriors

What to Look For



Pest access points

- Loose or damaged screens
- Gaps around doors and windows
- Cracks and gaps in foundation and around pipe penetrations
- Landscape

IPM actions

- Repair or replace screens
- Repair or install door sweeps and weatherstripping
- Seal large gaps with copper mesh and sealant (rodents can't chew through copper mesh)
- Trim foliage at least 12 inches away from building

Observations

Example Notes:

- Where were pests found?
- What IPM steps did you take?
- When will this area be inspected again?

Notes:



Pest food sources

Under eaves, equipment, and debris

- Keep trashcans with tight-fitting lids at least 12 feet away from building and wash as needed
- Install exterior floor mats to keep debris and residues from being tracked indoors

Notes:



Pest shelter sources

Under eaves and around play equipment

- Inform IPM Coordinator, contact a pest management professional for wasp nest removal
- Remove spiders and webs with web duster or vacuum
- Remove wood mulch at least 12 inches away from building exterior to reduce pest harborage

Notes:



Water Sources

Landscape and irrigation

- Install low-water, native landscape to conserve water and increase native biodiversity
- Repair irrigation lines to conserve water and prevent runoff

Notes: