

Protecting Our Homes Our Schools - Our Children



Basics of Pest Control Without Toxic Chemicals

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Your Right to Know

- **At single/multi family dwellings, day care centers and other public buildings,** a sign must be posted at the start of the application (indoors or out) and remain for 24 hours afterwards. They must be clearly legible and visible from principal access points. If a parent or worker requests prior notification, the applicator must supply it 24 hours in advance.
- **If you are the property owner, neighbor or frequent a public building or a business,** you have the right to contact the pesticide applicator for information about the pesticides used there.
- **If you suspect a pesticide has been misapplied or to register a health related complaint,** call the NJDEP Pesticide Control Program at (609) 984-6568.
- **In case of pesticide poisoning and emergencies,** call NJ Poison Control at (800) 222-1222.

How to Choose a Pest Control Company



- Make sure the company is **licensed** by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Make sure company has experienced, well-trained and security screened.
- Better pest control companies will **inspect** your home or building for free in order to tell whether you need preventive measures or treatment.
- Ask to **avoid chemicals** entirely. Get a **written contract**. Don't let them treat problems that aren't there. **Spot treat** as needed.
- Better companies will **explain methods** of control and respect your request for "least toxic" options. Ask about chemicals used, safety, purpose and alternatives before agreeing to procedure.

Safe Pest Controls in NJ Schools – It's the Law



Since June 2004, all public, private and charter schools must be trained and adopt an Integrated Pest Management (IPM – least toxic options first) policy & plan, which includes a notification for chemical pesticide use.

Will my school provide me information?

Schools are annually required to send to parent or guardian their IPM policy, list of actual pesticides used the prior year, name and phone number of school coordinator for further info.

Will I be notified if a pesticide is used?

If a pesticide other than a low-impact pesticide is needed, signs will be posted, notification sent to all parents or guardians of enrolled students and staff at least 72 hours in advance of application, minimum 7-hour delay in re-entry. Notice contains name of pesticide, location, date and reason for use, potential adverse effects, warning to sensitive persons, name and phone number of the school coordinator.

What should I do if I cannot get information from my school?

If the school refuses to give you the information, you can file a complaint with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Pesticide Control Program by calling (609) 984-6568.

Pesticide Free Lawns



AERATE SOIL & REDUCE THATCH: Earthworms will do both.

MONITOR THE LAWN: Identify and treat only for the problem that exists.

MOWING & REDUCE WEEDS: Set mower at 3-4 inches high. Leave grass clipping as mulch and fertilizer.

TEST SOIL FOR FERTILITY AND pH: Use lime as needed and slow release fertilizer early spring & late fall.

PLANT PROPER VARIETIES OF GRASS: Use appropriate grass per your light and soil. Seed bare spots in fall.

WATERING: If less than 1" rain per week, water deeply but infrequently. Water midnight to 8 AM.

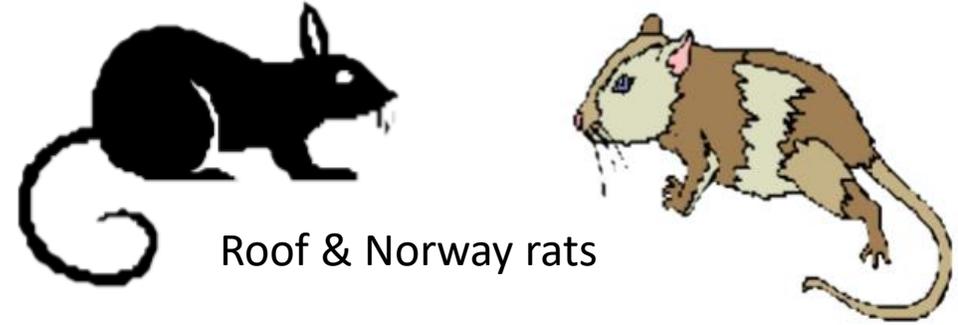
ELIMINATE PESTS: Attract birds and beneficial insects (e.g. lady bugs). Use native plant species.

ELIMINATE LAWNS: Grow perennials, wildflowers and drought/pest resistant plants.





Rats and Mice



Roof & Norway rats

- **Close entry points:** Fix water leaks, broken windows, screens & doors; use caulk & weatherstrip; wire mesh on vents.
- **Remove trash and recyclables** from basement, garage and shed. Tight lid on trash cans.
- **Raise woodpiles** and away from house. **Eliminate hiding places** - cut weeds, remove brush.
- Keep yard **free of pet manure and food**.
- **Seal all food** containers.



Snap Trap, Glue Board, Live Trap

- **Trap size** should fit the size of the pest, use several traps along their route.
- **Bait** with peanut butter mixed **with rolled oats, cheese, fruit, bread, or meat**.
- **Wear rubber gloves** to keep human smell off trap.

Ants & Roaches



Ants frequent kitchens and bathrooms. They do not bite or transmit disease. Some ants prefer sweets, and other grease! They are looking for one thing, FOOD – crumbs, pet food, spills in cabinets, sinks, and on stoves. **Roaches** also like water and good hiding places.



- Find and **remove source of food**, seal or clean it up.
- **Caulk** up or weather strip entry points and cracks.
- Use **vinegar** on a wet sponge to wipe up a trail of ants. **Sweep** them up and toss them outside.
- Sprinkle **cayenne** (red) pepper in the area you see ants to repel them.
- Remove **pet food bowl** or place in a larger, shallow pan filled with water and detergent.
- Use least toxic alternatives, like **Boric Acid, bait stations (disks), roach “hotels”**. Keep kids away.



For Roaches, remove sources of water and clutter too: leaky faucet, pet bowls, dishes in kitchen sink, leaf and rubbish piles



Fleas



They hitch a ride on you or pet, drop off onto floor or carpet, lay eggs that hatch in warm conditions. They can live 1 to 2 months without a meal and can survive 7 to 8 months with just one **blood meal**.

When to take action:

If you or your pet is scratching, or you see dried specks of blood that looks like coffee grounds (flea excrement) on furniture or a bed where your pet sleeps

- **Vacuum** pet areas, floors, carpets, furniture, crevices and cracks with a strong suction. Dispose of vacuum bag each time in sealed plastic bag. Put in trash.
- **Wash** floors with hot soapy water.
- Have pet sleep on a towel. Pick up towel by four corners . Wash hot/dry hot twice a week.
- **Flea comb** your pet starting at the head. Place fleas (and comb when done) in soapy water where they will drown. Comb for fleas daily.
- **Bathe pet** with a pet shampoo or soap. Soapy water kills fleas in seconds.
- **Flea Control Products** – some contain pesticides and others use herbal repellents.





Head Lice

Anyone can get head lice through direct head-to-head contact, sharing hats, brushes, scarfs, pillows, rest time mats, blankets and other personal items.

Tell teachers and parents of your children's friends if your child has lice to prevent outbreak. Watch for head scratching, red bites on scalp, around ears, and nape of the neck, eggs in the air.

Viable nits are usually laid close to the scalp, yellowish to gray in color, darken to a tan or coffee color as they mature, and are shaped like a teardrop. Nits, unlike dirt, dandruff, or lint, will not flick or brush out.

Drug store treatments are potentially harmful pesticides.

Manual removal of the live lice is safest.

Nitpicking without pesticides

1. **Apply coconut oil** to the child's head & scalp (any oil works, lubricant to make combing easier & smothers the lice).
2. **Detangle & separate hair** into one-inch sections.



3. **Using a nit comb**, go through each section from the scalp to the end of the hair. Immerse nits & lice in hot soapy water as they are pulled from the hair. Do this twice as nits are tightly cemented to the hair. Always pin cleaned sections of hair aside.

4. **Wash the child's hair** with hot water, blow-dry, recheck entire head for stray lice & nits.
5. **Clean and soak comb** in 150°F degree water for 15 minutes before putting it away.
6. **Wash all laundry** using hot water, as well as vacuum rugs & upholstery.

Repeat for 12 days and every member of the household showing symptoms.

DIY Option



Bees, Wasps, Hornets

Non-toxic and effective ways to manage outdoor pests

Store Bought



Wasp
& Hornet
Trap



Carpenter
Bee House



Zapper

No Such Thing as a Pest Free World

- Be an Informed Consumer
- Always Ask Questions
- Compare Options
- Use Least Toxic Pest Controls



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Video: **Arrest the Pests in your Nest - Production of Isles**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pq3DYsgdoXk>

End