

5. Evaluate the results. Allow time for the method to work and decide whether it is effective. Decide on long term or short-term chemical control, as well as non-chemical methods.

It is easier to prevent pests than to control them. You may not need to worry about pest control if you make the effort to prevent pests in the first place.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF IPM?

- Reduces the need for pesticides by using several pest management methods.

- Protects the environment from unnecessary pesticide applications.



- Fosters clean water supplies. Pesticide ridden water leaving your home can pollute ground water, streams or coastal regions.

- Promotes sound structures and healthy plants. Well maintained homes, lawns and gardens better withstand damage from pests.

For More Information

Contact the Household Hazardous Waste grant program at (603) 271-2047.

For more information on specific pests or care for home, lawn or garden log on to

www.des.nh.gov/hhw/IPM



Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program

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Paid for with a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, Division of Pesticide Control

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

HOME AND GARDEN



**MAKING THE RIGHT
CHOICES
TO ELIMINATE PESTS
AND
MINIMIZE RISKS**

The most effective strategy for controlling pests may be to combine methods in an approach known as integrated pest management (IPM) that emphasizes preventing pest damage.

HOW DO I MANAGE PESTS?

Obtain information about the pests and the available pest control methods. This knowledge can be used to manage pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.



HOW DO I BEGIN PEST MANAGEMENT AT HOME?

Try alternatives to pesticides and use conventional ones only when absolutely necessary. Integrated pest management does not necessarily result in pest elimination but encourages you to choose between various strategies to minimize the health and environmental impacts they create.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT:

1. Identify the pest problem. Figure out what pest you are up against. (A pest is an animal or plant that is detrimental to human interests, causing harm or reducing the quality and value of a



harvestable crop or other resource). Weeds, termites, rats, and mildew are examples of pests. Some signs such as poor soil or lack of water may look like a pest problem but actually are not. Most insects, up to 90% of them, are beneficial and don't require a "cure."

2. Decide how much pest control is necessary. Be reasonable. By living with minor pest damage, you can avoid intensive pest control product treatments.

3. Prevent pests. Use preventive methods in your home, garden and lawn before you reach for a toxic chemical.

-  Deny pests food and water.
-  Deny pests access and shelter by blocking, removing or destroying places they can enter or live, such as piles of decaying wood or leaves.
-  Keep plants healthy so they can resist disease. Choose plants that are suited to the climate. Rotate crops to decrease vulnerability to pests. Keep soils healthy ensuring the right pH, texture, nutrients and water or moisture.

4. Choose the least toxic solution. Try various non-toxic methods first, such as physically removing pests or pruning diseased plants before deciding on a control. Choose a product that targets only the problem and poses the least hazard.

Non-chemical controls really work, and have many advantages. They are effective for long periods of time and less likely to create pesticide resistant pest



populations. These controls pose virtually no risk to human health or the environment. Non-chemical methods include biological controls such as beneficial predators, parasitoids, microscopic pathogens and biochemical pesticides. Manual methods include spading and hoeing weeds, handpicking weeds and pests, using flyswatters, setting traps, and mulching to reduce weeds.



Use pesticides or **chemical controls** only if a non-chemical solution doesn't work. If you *must* use them, take care to choose the correct and least toxic pesticide product and amount. Read the product label. Store, handle, apply and dispose of them properly to reduce pesticide risks. Remember that the results achieved by using chemical controls are generally temporary and repeated treatments may be necessary.