

How Do I Know I'm Receiving IPM?

Use these three questions as a guide to determine if you're receiving IPM: 1.) Are baits and traps used instead of pesticide sprays and ONLY when pests are present? 2.) Does your contract monitor for pests – so that nothing sneaks up on you? 3.) Does your pest control technician provide suggestions to prevent future pest problems? The tips below will help you find out the answers.

- 1.) **Review service reports.** See if your technician is inspecting the facility and applying baits when needed (which is good) or using sprays (which is not preferred). Ask for service reports for all visits.
- 2.) **Call the company.** Ask for a written description of their IPM Services. Keep a copy in your pest management binder. It should include:
 - Regular inspections;
 - Setting and checking monitor traps;
 - IPM Recommendations for the owner/property manager to address;
 - Eliminating pests with traps or insecticide baits NOT sprays; and
 - Regular Service Reports.
 - a. Does the description list routine use of pesticide sprays? If so, then find another company!
 - b. Call Midwest Pesticide Action Center, 773-878-7378 with questions.
 - c. Ask the company HOW they plan to get your permission IF they want to use pesticides sprays. Remember sprays may not get rid of the problem and can cost you more.
- 3.) **Talk with your pest control technician.**
 - a. Is he/she familiar with the company's IPM Services? If not, tell the company as soon as possible.
 - b. Discuss pest problems with your technician. Talk about what may be attracting pests. Your technician should have a good idea why the problem is there in the first place.
 - c. Your technician is your partner. Use their expertise to help you maintain a facility that doesn't attract pests.

You Can Ensure Good IPM Services

- 1.) **Be in attendance.** Schedule pest management services when staff is present - you need to know what your technician is doing. If you plan pest control visits on weekends or evenings to protect your health - remember pesticide sprays leave residues that last for days or weeks. The best way to protect your health is to avoid spray applications.
- 2.) **Use a pest sighting log.** A list of pest sightings, including location, date and number of pests, will help your technician locate problems.
- 3.) **Ask for service reports.** A service report summarizes your technician's actions during each visit and should detail the technician's inspection, describe evidence of pests (including those found in monitoring traps) and list traps or pesticides used (including how much and where). A service report should also describe if a problem is getting better or worse. Review reports and keep them on file.
- 4.) **Ask for IPM recommendations.** A good technician will give advice for managing and maintaining your facility to reduce pest problems. This advice may include using caulk to seal up cracks, cleaning behind the refrigerator, installing doorsweeps or getting rid of clutter. Follow their advice and keep IPM recommendations on file.
- 5.) **Adopt an IPM Policy.** If you maintain a book of 'standard operating procedures' then adopt an IPM policy. Be sure your technician has a copy and keep another in your pest management binder. Safer Pest Control Project has sample policies.
- 6.) **Use an IPM Contract.** If you use monthly or quarterly service, make sure your pest management contract calls for IPM. Midwest Pesticide Action Center has sample contracts. Call 773-878-7378 or visit www.midwestpesticideaction.org for samples.

Midwest Pesticide Action Center is dedicated to reducing the health risks and environmental impacts of pesticides and promoting safer alternatives.