

School Pesticide Monitor

A Bi-monthly Bulletin on Pesticides and Alternatives

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Beyond Pesticides / National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides
701 E Street, SE, Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20003 • 202-543-5450
info@beyondpesticides.org • www.beyondpesticides.org



Two More States Receive Gold Stars for Improved Pesticide Policies!

Rhode Island and Wyoming Pass School Pesticide Notification Bills

Congratulations to Rhode Island and Wyoming for passing school pesticide legislation! Though neither law encompasses all five criteria to create an ideal school integrated pest management (IPM) policy (buffer zones, sign posting for all pesticide applications, prior written notification for pesticide use, guidelines for application, and the requirement that the school adopt an IPM program), both laws, effective July 1, 2001, give parents, students and staff vital information and protection.

BUFFER ZONES

Neither policy calls for a buffer zone around schools.

SIGN POSTING

Rhode Island. No posting is required.
Wyoming. Signs must be posted on the school building or property stating the date and location of the application, the type of pesticide being applied, and a contact for additional information. Signs for indoor applications must be posted at the main entrances to school buildings and at the entrances to the specific application areas within buildings. Outdoors, signs must be posted immediately adjacent to the treated areas and at the entrance to the district property. Signs must remain posted for 72 hours.

NOTIFICATION

Rhode Island. Notice of any pesticide application at a school must be given to the parents/guardians of the students and the staff no later than one week after the application. Each school must main-

tain a registry of parents/guardians of students and school staff who want prior notification of pesticide applications at their school. Any person on the registry must be provided with notice no later than 24 hours prior to the application. All notification must include the active ingredient of the pesticide being applied, the target pest, the location of the application, the date of the application, and the name of a designee who may be contacted for further information. Copies of pesticide application records must be maintained for five years.

Wyoming. Commercial applicators must

notify school districts of applications on or within any building or real property used by a school no less than 72 hours before the application. Districts must then notify students, teachers and staff, including a distribution date of the notice, the date and location of application or treatment area, pest to be controlled, name and type of pesticide to be applied, and a contact for further information. All notices must be retained by schools or school districts for two years.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Rhode Island. No (continued on page 2)

Steps Towards Expelling Pesticides from Your School

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Gather information about pesticides, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and successful school IPM programs; identify applicable laws, pesticide-related incidents, and lawmakers and activists that will help your case.

IDENTIFY THE SCHOOL'S PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

Find out who administers the policy and evaluate the school's policy.

DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN

Develop and present a proposed IPM and right-to-know policy for the school.

WORK WITH SCHOOL DECISION MAKERS

Ask school officials to publically endorse the policy at a press conference.

ORGANIZE THE COMMUNITY

Solicit community involvement at PTA, school board and community meetings; through newspaper articles and informational flyers; and at press conferences.

CELEBRATE VICTORIES

Celebrate the school's adoption of the policy, and all successes, with media events acknowledging all supporters.

BECOME A WATCHDOG

Follow up with the school district to be sure the policy is successfully implemented. Motivate with awards and recognition of small and large steps taken.

Excerpted from Beyond Pesticides' factsheet "Expelling Pesticides from School: A How-to Guide to Reducing Children's Exposure to Pesticides." For a copy, contact Beyond Pesticides or see www.beyondpesticides.org.

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If you are interested in receiving the *School Pesticide Monitor* via email, contact us at info@beyondpesticides.org.

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Streams to Schools: Finding Alternatives to Pesticides

Beyond Pesticides' 20th National Pesticide Forum will be held April 26-28 at Bastyr University in Seattle, Washington. For details and registration, see www.beyondpesticides.org.

Mouse Control

Preventing and controlling mice in schools

PREVENTION

Full-grown mice can enter buildings through a hole the size of a dime.

- Stuff holes in/around buildings with steel wool or copper mesh, or fill with caulk or plaster and cover with sheet metal. Pay particular attention to the foundation.
- Seal gaps around doors. Replace worn thresholds and weatherstripping, and install door sweeps.
- Caulk openings around water pipes, electric wires, cables, and vents.
- Use hardware cloth to screen vents, floor drains, and any other openings.
- Cut tall grass, weeds and brush from around the foundation and dispose of clippings.
- Discard /recycle unused clutter around buildings that provide a home for mice.
- Store trash, indoors and out, in metal containers with a tight fitting lids.
- Don't leave food on counters or dirty dishes in the sink.
- Keep the stovetop, oven, broiler, and kitchen floor clean.
- Store grains, cereals and nuts in sealed plastic, metal or glass containers, or keep them in the refrigerator. Rodents can chew through plastic bags.

MONITORING

Identifying a mouse problem may be as easy as seeing a mouse or finding droppings on the counter. If not,

- Sprinkle surfaces with a light coating of flour. If correct, you'll find footprints in the flour and tracks from the flour, hopefully, to their point of entrance.
- Be more aware of possible mouse activity in the fall, when the cold weather hits and mice head indoors for warmth. Pay particular attention to areas where food is stored and areas adjacent to buildings.

CONTROL

Non-toxic

Live traps, Snap traps, Glue traps, Repellent Sound Devices, Biological (cats)

Toxic

Chemical mouse control includes rodenticides (baits and tracking powders). Poisons should be placed in bait boxes, which allow for careful monitoring of the bait, protect the bait from the elements, and protect humans and pets from unintentional exposure. Mice nibble rather than eat large quantities at a time, so any rodenticide that you consider will need to be used at high concentrations, which means an increase in the hazards to nontarget species. If you decide to use poisons, be sure to block off the areas where you have placed them to minimize the chance of an accident.

For more information, contact Beyond Pesticides or see www.beyondpesticides.org.

application of pesticides may be made in buildings or on the grounds of any school during regular school hours or during planned activities at the school. No child shall enter an area where the application has been made until the stated Environmental Protection Agency reentry time, as per pesticide's label, except with the use of exempted products.

Wyoming. No guidelines offered.

SCHOOL IPM POLICIES

Rhode Island. The school staff and parents/guardians of students must be provided with a written statement of the policy established by their local committee concerning pesticide application on school property, and a description of any pesticide applications made at the school during the previous year. The statement must indicate that the staff, parents or guardians may register for prior notification of pesticide applications at the school and describe the emergency notification procedures.

Wyoming. The board of trustees in each school district may develop policies and pest control methods, including emergency policies, to minimize risk to students, employees, school property, and the environment.

Michigan, Pennsylvania and Tennessee all have school pest management laws in the works. We'll keep you posted as to their status!

For a copy of either policy, see www.beyondpesticides.org.