



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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Division of Food Services and Transportation

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GLUEBOARD MONITORS AS INSPECTION TOOLS

The Board of Education's Pest Control Unit has progressively pursued the principles of Integrated Pest Management for well over a decade. Many state and local authorities recognize the critical importance of monitoring devices in an IPM program, as they encourage and in increasing numbers actually mandate IPM in schools and other public buildings. The "School Environmental Protection Act (SEPA)" which will mandate IPM in schools on a federal level was introduced in the U.S. Senate on October 13, 1999. As of January 1, 2000, heightened certification requirements have been mandatory for anyone to treat schools in New York State. Furthermore, a parent notification bill designed to encourage IPM has been passed and becomes effective on July 1, 2001. Legislation to precede the expected eventual federal IPM mandate has passed the Assembly twice and remains an active issue.

The concept of providing effective pest control while reducing exposure to pesticides through IPM is firmly entrenched in government and industry and is here to stay. The combination of IPM with advanced pest control materials has greatly reduced our dependence on objectionable "hard" pesticides. Over the years, this has resulted in favorable recognition from various groups. The use of monitoring devices such as our scented non-toxic glueboards is an essential component to a successful IPM program. In the absence of a monitoring program, the only sure way to maintain control of pest species is through the scheduled widespread application of pesticides regardless of the necessity. In the face of heightened environmental awareness, the regularly scheduled mass spraying of pesticides in school buildings is obviously no longer acceptable.

The intended purpose of the glueboard monitor is to initially attract, trap, immobilize, and therefore prevent further damage from the pest. The value of properly placed monitors to track the incidence of pest intrusion cannot be overemphasized. A properly placed glueboard monitor will not only immobilize the pest but will also indicate the species present, the population level of the species, the likely location of harborage or egress point, and other information pertinent to the successful eradication of the pest. Most importantly, the glueboard may also indicate to the pest control professional that further inspection and treatment may be necessary. Glueboard monitors provide us with these advantages.

In summary, the prudent use of monitors is a critical component of the IPM program established in our child sensitive facilities to control pests effectively and safely.

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THE BENEFITS

The pest specimen present on a glueboard monitor:

1. Has been immobilized and will soon die
2. Will not require a pesticide treatment
3. Will no longer be capable of contamination
4. Will no longer be a disease vector
5. Will no longer mate or multiply
6. May indicate by position from where it originated
7. May indicate that further inspection is necessary
8. May indicate other IPM measures need to be implemented
9. The monitor continuously serves as a barometer of pest activity

THE DRAWBACKS

The pest specimen present on a glueboard monitor:

1. Could pose a biting hazard depending on the species
2. The monitor must be strategically placed to be effective
3. The non-toxic glue may cause temporary damage to property or clothing
4. Monitors should be placed as to be inaccessible to young children
5. Small pets at large may be trapped. (We have successfully released two of two)
6. Monitor with catch may be offensive if not placed in concealed location
7. Glueboards are perceived by some to be a cruel device

It is obvious that when used properly, the benefits far outweigh the risks.