

Tools for Schools/Indoor Air Quality Updates
2011-2012 School Year
by JoAnn Duncan

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What's pestering you?

Did you know...that improperly stored food, food crumbs and spills from eating in schools are open invitations to rodents and other pests? Did you also know that you have control over the "pests" that are in your work environment by following these simple recommendations that are part of an Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM)?

Where food items are necessary, permitted and stored by teachers and staff (as approved by a building administrator), the food must be stored in locking, sealed, hard plastic or metal containers. Plastic bags, such as *Ziplock* Bags, baggies, plastic wrap, aluminum foil or the original paper or plastic bags that snacks come in are not appropriate food storage containers as they can be eaten through. These food storage requirements do not apply to student and staff snacks and lunches that are brought to school and consumed on the same day. However, when eating in classrooms at snack time, it is very important for students and staff to clean up their crumbs and spills immediately and for the custodial staff to empty trash bags daily. This decreases the conditions for rodents, ants and other pests to want to enter the building.

Westport has an IPM that focuses on preventing pests from entering the buildings by following the guidelines above. If necessary and where possible, traps are used, not pesticides. IPM programs are very successful when the proper food storage requirements are followed by students and staff.

See our Westport IAQ Control and Improvement Procedures updated on Feb 1, 2012, section # 6 page 6 at www.westport.k12.ct.us. Click on District, Tools for Schools, Procedures.