

SCHOOL FACILITIES
Pest Control Policy

Goals

Pest control is an integral part of managing the buildings and grounds of the Loon Lake School District. Protecting the health and safety of students and staff is also an essential part of providing an education to District students. Therefore, it is the policy of the District to manage pests using an integrated site-specific approach that achieves the following goals:

- Protects the public health and safety
- Controls pests effectively
- Promotes land stewardship
- Seeks cost-effective solutions to pest management problems

Definitions

“Pests” means populations of living organisms (animals, plants or microorganisms) that interfere with the use of the school site for human purposes. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property or the environment.

“Pesticide” means, but is not limited to:

1. Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, control, repel, or mitigate any pest.
2. Any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant.
3. Any spray adjuvant, such as a wetting agent, spreading agent, deposit builder, adhesive, emulsifying agent, deflocculating agent, water modifier, or similar agent with or without toxic properties of its own intended to be used with any pesticide as an aid to the application or effect thereof, and sold in a package or container separate from that of the pesticide with which it is to be used.

Objectives

To achieve the goals set forth in this policy, several objectives must be met.

1. Responsibilities: The Maintenance Supervisor (MS) will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural or biological means.

2. **Methods:** The MS will depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. Control is intended to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. Consideration will be based on a review of other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or are not feasible. Cost and staffing will be considerations but will not alone be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents, and selected non-chemical pest management methods will be used whenever feasible to provide the desired control. The options considered will include the option to take no action. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet important management goals, the least hazardous effective material will be chosen. The application of pesticides will be at the lowest recommended rate of application to achieve the desired results.
3. **Record keeping and reporting:** Records of pesticide use shall be maintained to meet the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. In addition, pest data sheet that record pest populations are to be maintained to verify the need for treatments. Each fall, the MS shall report on the success of the prior school year's pest control measures; present the plan of action for the coming school year.
4. **Notification:** The District takes the responsibility to notify the staff, students, and parents of upcoming pesticide treatments scheduled to occur during the school year. Notices will be posted in designated areas at school and sent home to parents to inform them of upcoming applications. Such notice will normally be provided at least two days before the application. When school is not in session treated areas will still be posted.
5. **Timing of Applications:** The use of pesticides during school hours will be avoided except in emergencies. No pesticide is to be applied simply at a preset schedule. An evaluation of need is to be made prior to each application.
6. **Pesticide Storage and Purchase:** Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use during the year. Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the EPA-registered label directions and State regulations. Pesticides must be stored in a secure site not accessible to students.
7. **Pesticide Applicators:** Personnel responsible for pesticide application must be educated and trained in the principles and practices of their use and they must follow the regulations and label precautions of the product being used. The district will ensure that staff members using pesticides receive ongoing training in their use. Agreements for the application of pesticides by outside contractors must comply with this policy and must be reviewed by responsible administrators in advance of any applications. Precautionary statements are required on all pesticide labels. Signal words indicate the level of acute toxicity, the hazard to humans posed by the product. **EVERY LABEL BEARS THE CHILD HAZARD WARNING: KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

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8. Training: The District shall provide opportunities as needed for the MS to receive information and training on integrated pest management procedures.

9. Community Involvement: The MS shall seek volunteer assistance, as deemed reasonable, to defray the costs of pest control if a preferred method of pest control is not economically feasible.

Loon Lake School District #183
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