

Pesticide Safety for Building Owners, Managers and Staff

Building owners are required to keep apartments and common areas pest-free and must hire a pest management professional (PMP) licensed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation if applying pesticides in these areas.

Routine spraying of chemical pesticides does not address the root of pest problems, and many pesticides contain chemicals that may harm people, pets and the environment. However, reduced-risk pesticides that are used in a safe manner by licensed pest management professionals are sometimes appropriate, if used in combination with other pest management methods that address the source of infestations, such as improved sanitation, building maintenance, pest exclusion and trapping.

Safe Pesticide Application by Pest Management Professionals

Pest management professionals should:

- Discuss any pesticide application and the associated risks.
- Use chemical pesticides sparingly and apply to small targeted areas only.
- Provide a copy of the manufacturer's label for any pesticide used.
- Keep chemicals away from children and pets.

Reduced-Risk Pesticides

Pesticides for Ants and Cockroaches

- **Dusts and Granular Baits:** Dusts for cockroaches include boric acid, diatomaceous earth and silica gel. All dusts should be applied directly inside cracks and crevices. Clean up any remaining dust in accessible areas.
- **Gel Baits and Bait Stations:** Gel baits are available in tubes and bait stations. These baits are applied in cracks and crevices where cockroaches and ants live. Containerized gel bait stations are very effective at controlling cockroach infestations. Pests eat the bait and return to their nests to die, exposing the other pests to the poisonous chemicals.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

is a prevention-based pest management method that provides long lasting pest control, improves building conditions and is less harmful to residents and pets than traditional pest control.

Whereas traditional pest control relies on routine pesticide applications, IPM targets the underlying causes of pest infestations through simple pest proofing strategies such as fixing leaks and holes and managing garbage to deprive pests of food, water, shelter and ways to get around.

If pesticides must be used, IPM uses the least toxic chemicals, applied in the safest manner to protect people and pets.

For more information, visit nyc.gov/health or call 311 and ask for "Healthy Homes."

Pesticides for Rodents

Rodent bait is an effective way to eliminate rats, but should be **applied only by professionals** in public areas, commercial settings and multiple unit buildings.

Rats and mice can easily push or carry bait out of burrows or nests and bait stations into areas where children, pests or wildlife could be exposed. Therefore, the PMP must place loose pellet bait deep into burrows and secure bait blocks on rods, inside tamper-resistant bait stations that are anchored by cement, caulk or wire. The PMP should also:

- Read and follow the manufacturer's label.
- Use the smallest effective amount of bait.
- Place bait stations on the path rats normally travel, often along building walls and fences.
- Keep bait stations away from children and pets.
- Check bait stations at least monthly.
- Replace bait after it's been eaten.
- Wait at least two weeks after all rat activity has stopped to remove bait stations.

Pesticides for Bed Bugs

Talk with the PMP about steam cleaning, disinfecting and reduced-risk pesticides for bed bugs. The use of an effective, reduced-risk pesticide is crucial for successful management of bed bugs without harming the health of people and pets.

PESTICIDE WARNINGS

- **Never use illegal pesticides like Tres Pasitos, Chinese chalk or Tempo.**
- **Never use a product that does not have a manufacturer's label.**
- **Never use foggers or bombs for insect control.**
- **Never place loose rodent bait in areas accessible to children or pets.**