

4 Simple Steps Managing Food in the Classroom for Integrated Pest Management



Why should we care about integrated pest management in the classroom? When food is eaten in the classroom, crumbs can be left around and drinks may spill. These remnants can attract pests, like roaches and mice. Pests can make asthma worse for children which may conflict with their success in school. And really, who wants mice in their classrooms?



1 Clean up

Clean up as soon as meals or snacks are over and ensure that waste is either recycled or put in a trash can. Have a plan to clean up small messes and call the custodian to help clean large spills. For leftover food or snacks make sure they are stored in a sealed plastic container.

2 Working with custodians

Establish a routine for when the custodian empties the trash so trash does not sit out for too many hours. Some schools designate a place for trash bins outside the classroom so that custodians don't disrupt class and they know exactly what to pick up. This helps ensure that no food waste is left in the classroom.



3 Floors

Avoid eating on a carpet or rug. It is much easier to clean a table or a floor than it is to clean carpet. If the floor is tile, a wet mop should be used for daily cleaning. If it's carpeted, a vacuum with a HEPA filter should be used for daily cleaning. Schools should have a regular schedule to do a deep cleaning of their carpets. It should be done when school is closed and carpets should be fully dry before school is in session again.

4 Students and parents

Involve parents and students in your efforts. If parents are donating products, it is important to only bring in these recommended items, Lysol Power & Free Disinfecting Wipes with Hydrogen Peroxide and Clorox Green Works Compostable Cleaning Wipes. Students should not be using cleaning chemicals to clean their classroom but they can still help. Involve students in cleaning up after themselves by putting food waste in the correct bin and not leaving food out when they are not eating.

